

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Eccliaistical Affairs.

THE FUTURE IN RELATION TO THE PRESENT.

We have watched with some interest, not by any means unmixed with anxiety, the bearing which various bodies of Nonconformists have assumed under the infliction of the Government bill for the amendment of the Elementary Education Act. The most deadly blow, perhaps, which could be aimed at the advanced section of the Liberal party, which by the concession of the Premier himself constitutes the pith of its political power, would be such a one as would divert its attention from great national principles into a wrangle over comparatively unimportant details. The ground upon which the contest between clericalism and the just claims of the people will ultimately be fought out, must of necessity be broad enough to give a fair position to the whole of those claims. It has been, from the first, an object of paramount importance with us to identify Nonconformist movements with such as are truly national; to prosecute every enterprise we have commended to the sympathies of our friends, rather for the reason that it would bring benefit to the entire community, than that it would promote the advantage of any special objects they or we might entertain. We confess that we have no great faith in the ultimate good to be compassed by mere party ascendancy. Our faith is placed in principles, and in the appreciation of those principles which commend themselves to our judgment and our affections by the great majority of our countrymen. Our first business we believe to be to enlighten public opinion; our next, to organise it; our last, to frame such tactical methods as may serve to give to a paramount weight of public sentiment a fitting and adequate emphasis of expression.

It must be admitted, we think, by all who are unbiassed by mere party feeling, that the Nonconformists of this country have loyally acted upon this basis. That they have suffered somewhat, in consequence, in regard to their own specialities is not to be denied. That they have taken a position less commanding in respect of their own objects, and have thereby sacrificed no small portion of political power for the immediate realisation of them, will, we presume, be generally admitted. In this respect, their conduct has presented a striking contrast to that of their Roman Catholic countrymen.

Their present position too, and the spirit in which their claims have been dealt with by successive administrations, exhibit a like contrast. Their patience and patriotism have usually been repaid by the scantiest and most niggardly recognition. But it ought not to be forgotten that they have laid up for themselves a large store of moral influence which, in due time, will stand them in stead. Their self-restraint and their genuine public spirit have not been wholly thrown away. No disinterestedness of conduct, no breadth of sympathy, can be ultimately deprived of its legitimate effect. They may have to wait long before they reach the accomplishment of their purpose, but when they do reach it, which is a mere matter of time—they reach it in a more satisfactory and finished phase than could have been attained under other conditions.

We confess we are jealous for their reputation, or rather, let us say, for their wisdom, their patriotism, and their honour. That they should exhibit signs of irritation under the most recent of the insults offered to them we can quite understand; that they should be goaded into impatience by them is matter of no surprise. That they should give vent to their angry feelings in angry expressions is natural, and can hardly be deemed blameworthy. But we submit to them with the deepest respect, that they would do well, even under the stinging provocations to which they are now exposed, to bear in mind the true greatness of the end to which they are committed, and not suffer themselves to be drawn aside from that end by what, in the long run, will appear to be petty and trivial details of the warfare they are waging. Nothing hardly can be worse in its way than the Elementary Education Act—nothing can be worse than the proposed amendment of it. Taking the one with the other, they undoubtedly constitute the most flagrant and contemptuous disregard of the principles we venerate, which has tried our patience for many years past. It is not, however, so much on account of the injury inflicted upon Nonconformists, as on account of the harm which is done to the cause of national education, that we are bound to resentment. Of course, any plan for bringing education home to every family in the kingdom, will show some good results. Mr. Forster's statement, the other night, when asking for the annual Parliamentary grant, was of a kind which could hardly fail of presenting some gratifying features. But because there are half-a-million more children under some sort of instruction since the passing of the Act of 1870, it by no means follows that the line of policy upon which that Act was framed is thereby justified or justifiable. Almost any plan covering the same extent of ground would probably have shown the same results. Its success must be tested by other criteria than those which are immediate. Is it, on the whole, by virtue of its own provisions, laying the groundwork of a comprehensive and progressive national system of education? Is it not, in point of fact, throwing formidable impediments in the way of any such design? Does it not purchase much of its immediate and apparent success at the cost of what the nation seriously wants? Can we imagine an efficient and satisfactory system of popular education until the denominational, or, more correctly phrased, the sectarian, elements which characterise it have been eliminated from

it? These interrogatories, after all, point out the principal vice of Mr. Forster's Act and Bill, which avail themselves of educational reasons, but not mainly for strictly educational purposes. They erect a machinery of vast extent on an insufficient basis—nay, upon a basis which is essentially rotten. Their chief offence is an offence against the true and permanent interests of the people. They have sacrificed a great public cause to party exigencies. They were framed for immediate success, and they have attained it, but they have thereby placed the whole movement for the better instruction of the people in a false position, from which it will require many years of controversy and struggle to extricate it.

This, after all, is the essentially mischievous spirit of both the Act and the Amending Bill. It is not that they place Nonconformists at a disadvantage as compared with the Church of England. It is that they damage the prospects of a sound system of national education. We could wish that this broader view of the subject were, if not exclusively, yet predominantly, kept in mind by all Nonconformist bodies. Their object in this, as in all other movements, should be to lose sight of what is special to Nonconformity in the greater and more diffusive light of what is common to the nation. They are called upon at this juncture to act the part of citizens, guided, of course, as far as it may be practicable, by such views of what their principles suggest as are best for all classes. They will commit a sad mistake, we think, in converting, even unconsciously, a really national into a sectarian fight. As to what they will do at the next general election, we trust they will refrain from recording premature vows. For our own part, we have not the slightest care for the maintenance of party claims, further than as they may involve the interests of the country. It may be that, when the next general election is close at hand, we may find ourselves wholly unperplexed as to the path we should pursue. But, surely, it is wiser, if not more dignified, just now to abstain from parading before society what, even if wise for the moment, may be wholly upset by intervening events. We have a great battle to fight—a greater battle than even this educational question, which is only a part of it. Mere impetuosity will not lead us on to permanent triumph. Whatever we do in this matter must be done upon a thoughtful consideration of all the materials that may come before us for a final decision, and, at whatever resolution we may ultimately arrive, we shall arrive at it, we trust, with paramount regard to the national welfare, and with an unfaltering determination to accept with cheerfulness any and every personal and party loss which it may threaten to entail upon us.

LOW CHURCH HYSTERICS.

HYSTERICS are sometimes the last refuge of feminine perversity, and sometimes the symptom of incipient paralysis in men. In which light we should regard the hysterical outcry which is now being raised by the Low Church party in the Establishment, we shall not too curiously inquire. But we certainly cannot congratulate that party on the appearance it presented at Exeter Hall on Monday night. The poor dog which has exhausted all its arts of dumb entreaty, fawning, crouching, tail-wagging, and so on, when finally its obdurate master shuts the door in its face, has no resource left but to sit on its haunches and howl.

And even so our afflicted Evangelical brethren of the Establishment, after memorialising and beseeching their spiritual pastors and masters with such poor results as the delicate *soufflet* recently administered by their two archbishops, had nothing left but to assemble in their thousands and cry aloud. We yield to none in our appreciation of the power of public meetings in advancing a clear and definite policy. But what are called "indignation meetings"—merely shrieking assemblies, noisy and inarticulate as an Indian war-dance—are rarely, if ever, adapted to the uses of civilised life. And as neither the noble lord in the chair on Monday evening, nor the good people who supported him, had any definite amendment of our ecclesiastical system to propose, we are at a loss to understand what purpose was served unless it was to gauge the power of Evangelical lungs. Besides, the usual and the most legitimate object of agitation by public meeting is to obtain an alteration of the law. But agitation for the enforcement of existing law is a wholly different matter, and is a sure symptom of something very rotten in Church or State whenever it becomes necessary.

So far as we could gather from the confused utterances at Exeter Hall, the existing laws are thought quite sufficient, if only any one could be got to enforce them, to prevent the introduction of the confessional into the Anglican Church. How, indeed, could Low Churchmen talk of the "bulwark of Protestantism" unless they thought so? But somehow the bulwark is in a very bad way: for Romanising priests spurn it contumeliously under their feet, and set up their confessionals on its sacred inner side. Thus one of the speakers excited one of the numerous sensations of the evening, by reading a paper put into his hand by a friend, wherein that friend affirmed that he, the said friend, "on that very afternoon"—had it been the day before the effect would have been much less—had seen with his own eyes a dim light burning in the chancel of a London church, and a crucifix hanging beside the pulpit, and—climax of horrors—notice posted up to the effect that confessions were heard on three days in each week. Whereupon there was a great deal of hissing and howling; the audience being manifestly under the impression, and apparently the speakers also, that the law as it stands is quite sufficient to suppress the scandal. We rather think this is a mistake. But supposing they were right, what would our Evangelical friends think of the condition of any state in which it might be impossible to enforce secular law except by indignation meetings? Suppose we were obliged to "assemble in our thousands," and shout and hiss in order to induce our judges to imprison thieves or hang murderers; would not Republicans have a much more plausible case than they have now? They might very well urge that we could not possibly be worse off, and might probably gain a good deal by the change. Now these Evangelical agitators profess to believe that spiritual matters are of immeasurably greater importance than temporal affairs. A murderer destroys the body; but their belief is that the practice of sacramental confession may destroy men's souls for ever. At least they say such is their belief; and they probably think it is. But actions speak louder than words, and are often, even to ourselves, a better index to real conviction than the superficial thoughts we lazily indulge. If judges habitually failed to enforce the law against thieves and murderers, Lord Shaftesbury and his followers would certainly demand their removal and disgrace even at the risk of revolution. But as it is only men's immortal interests which are concerned, only souls that are imperilled by the indifference of bishops to the spread of the confessional, the Evangelicals think apparently that the loss of breath in hissing and howling is all the sacrifice demanded from them. The law is sufficient, they say, only the bishops won't enforce it. Could they possibly be worse off after disestablishment? Would there not be at least a chance of a more real Church Government? Of this we are well assured, that the Episcopal Church in Ireland would make short work with any clergyman who attempted to introduce the confessional there.

The meeting at Exeter Hall was opened with a prayer, the phraseology of which ought to have reminded many how much the Established Church owes to Methodism and to other voluntary churches, which in times past she has treated with a contempt tempered only by fear. But the emphasis with which the reverend petitioner insisted on the preservation of the Establishment sounded, to say the least, a little incongruous with the occasion which had brought the assembly together. The bishops, also, were made the subjects of special prayer; and blessings were sought for them, in the desire for which we are sure all devout souls

would heartily join. But scarcely had the amen died away, when the same bishops were treated to some very strong language indeed on the part of the noble chairman, who seemed to labour under a considerable confusion of ideas as to the conditions necessarily involved in a legal establishment of religion. "What have we to do with the rubrics?" he indignantly asked, when referring to some Ritualistic arguments founded upon them; and, in spite of often-repeated warnings from our supreme ecclesiastical tribunal, he persisted in assuming that the law of the Anglican Church is to be decided by the Bible and the Bible alone. To do the audience justice, this was evidently the prevalent ideal of what ought to be. For these sentiments brought the house down to such an extent, that a message was sent up from an unfortunate meeting under the floor, with an entreaty that the audience above-stairs would be pleased to signify their enthusiasm in any other manner than with their feet. We also think that at the present crisis of religious progress such enthusiasm might find a less noisy and much more effectual vent. Sir Thomas Chambers followed with a speech full of genuine feeling, to which we desire to do all honour. His theme, maintained with the fervour of living conviction, was the impiety of interposing any earthly mediator between the soul and God. We can only lament that he does not see how the very same argument carried but a little farther would show the incongruity of political establishments of religion. For surely, if religion is so essentially the effluence of individual life, in direct communion with God, its outward organisations ought to arise out of the voluntary union of individuals, and not from the enforced ordinance of the State. Sir Thomas Chambers told an interesting little story of a note he had received from the Archbishop of Canterbury, requesting him to oppose Mr. Miall's recent motion, which of course he was forward to do; but he took the opportunity, it seems, of reading his grace a lecture on the insignificance of Mr. Miall and his followers compared with the disintegrating power of Ritualism. It would have been more gracious had he owned, what he must well know, that Mr. Miall sees in disestablishment, not the destruction of the Episcopal Church, but its emancipation from the foes in its own house.

The Rev. Mr. Marston proclaimed that the Protestantism, not only of the Anglican Church, but of the whole country was at stake. We beg leave to differ. For ourselves we are not in the slightest degree afraid. Can Mr. Marston point to an Independent or a Baptist Church in which the confessional has been set up? Have any Methodist or Presbyterian ministers petitioned the supreme assemblies of their respective churches for the appointment of official confessors? Or does any man in his senses dream of such a thing as possible? And if not, why not? How comes it to pass that the one only Church in the land outside the Roman pale, which is insidiously doing the work of Rome, is the so-called "bulwark of Protestantism"? What is to be done? exclaimed this speaker, and we thought he was coming to the point. He had great hopes from the expression of public opinion. But, said he very thoughtfully, what can the bishops do? "Nothing!" roared the meeting in full chorus. This, however, was not the answer he desired. He believed the bishops could if they would. He pointed out that of the four hundred and eighty-three signatures to the petition for the confessional, two hundred and sixty were those of curates or unbeneficed clergymen. And all these, he said, by various strokes of episcopal pens could be silenced in a week. It then occurred to him that this reversal of the divine procedure, by leaving the mighty on their seats, and putting down the lowly and weak, would be a curious satire on the argument in favour of an Establishment on account of its gentlemanliness. Some, he observed, might think this scarcely fair, because the beneficed clergy were save beyond the reach of the Episcopal crook. But, he exclaimed, "in the name of God it is fair; it is fair to Christ!" When supremely holy names are thus familiarly bandied in sanction of what men of the world would commonly regard as the proposition of rather a dirty trick, comment is unnecessary. The general tone of the meeting showed but too plainly that the Evangelical party has fallen very low. When men can shut their eyes to what is clearly implied by the reservation to priests of the right to read the daily absolution; when they are obstinately blind to the plain grammatical meaning of the rubric and absolution in the visitation of the sick; when they in general pervert to non-natural meanings the essential significance of the whole sacramental system they profess, it is

impossible but that paralysis should seize their understandings. Violating of necessity, however unconsciously, the unmistakeable spirit of the Prayer-book, they have no right to say to transgressors in an opposite direction, "Stand by, for I am holier than thou." Say what they may, the principle of auricular confession and of priestly absolution stares us in the face, indelibly branded on the legal constitution of the Anglican Church. And do what they may, there are only two courses open to them. The one is to reform the Prayer-book by Act of Parliament. Let them try it if they dare. The other is to join us in the demand for disestablishment. But they will do neither. Using the word of course in the military sense, they are far too much demoralised for any decided action. They will continue to "let 'I dare not,' wait upon 'I would,' like the poor cat 'i' the adage."

ECCELESIASTICAL NOTES.

THE moral impossibility of obtaining anything like substantial reform in the Established Church was never more forcibly illustrated than in the debate and division in the House of Lords last Thursday on the Public Worship Facilities Bill. Here was a measure devised, as we thoroughly believe, in the best interests of religion; calculated, although in a very small way, to bring some light into some very dark, and some life into some very dead, ecclesiastical districts. It was an extension of the legislation for which the Evangelicals shouted some sixteen years ago, and, on the whole, we think, would have worked to their benefit. Of that, however, they are probably better judges than we could be, and being of the opinion that it would not work to their benefit, they have, on the whole, opposed it. Lord Carnarvon moved its second reading, and, in doing so, pointed out its advantages to the Church as a religious institution. But Lord Shaftesbury had been bitten, first by the anti-Episcopal virus and secondly by the State-Church virus, and he moved the rejection of the measure. In doing so he said nothing new in stating that, in his judgment, the measure was "vicious in principle"—impairing the integrity of the parochial system, bringing great discredit upon the Establishment, calculated to drive people into Dissent, a vast extension of Episcopal power, and last, and worst of all, "the first step towards the disestablishment of the Church of England."

We will not stop to ask how many "first steps," from the abolition of the Test and Corporation Acts, from the Marriages Act, and from half-a-dozen subsequent Acts, have been taken, in the minds of Churchmen, towards disestablishment, but pass on to remark the strangeness of the fact that while the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Llandaff supported the measure—the former, speaking in its favour with great force and earnestness—and while every bishop who was present voted for it, the bill was lost by 68 to 52 votes. In the minority were found the two archbishops and ten bishops, and no Episcopal vote was given on the other side. We do not remember a more significant circumstance than this. In a matter of Church reform, where naturally their opinions should carry the greatest weight, the whole bench of bishops is proved to be utterly powerless. More than this. The archbishops and bishops not only cannot move the Upper House of Legislature to adopt their views, but that House moves in flat contradiction to them. It ignores their influence and discredits their authority. The vote of last Thursday was equivalent to saying that they know nothing about ecclesiastical matters, and are not to be trusted in their opinions. Is not this equivalent also to saying, at the same time, that their presence in the House of Lords is altogether unnecessary? Surely if they were needed at any time it was in the debate and division upon this bill; and yet the House of Lords flouted their advice, and turned out their bill. Will anyone, after this, say that they are needed in that assembly?

We have referred to the manner in which the archbishops have received the reply of the anti-Ritualistic memorialists, but there is a bishop who speaks with a little more decision, but not with much more comfort, upon this point. The case is this. Some parishioners of Morpeth have complained to the bishop of the Ritualistic practices of the Rev. Francis Grey, the incumbent. Mr. Grey, it appears, has used wafers at the Lord's Supper, wears coloured stoles, and stands in an illegal position during the communion service. The bishop has remonstrated with the heretic incumbent, who gives up the wafer, and says something to lead the bishop to conclude that he will also give up his pretty coloured stoles, but stands firm in his place

at the communion table—will not, for bishop or parishioners, budge from it one inch. Now what are bishop and parishioners to do? It is a melancholy situation. The bishop says that the incumbent is violating his ordination vow; that the incumbent is doing mischief by setting the law at defiance; that he, the bishop, grieves over the incumbent's headstrong will, and heartily sympathises with the parishioners. Then comes "the rub," in the suggestion of what can be done. "It is," says the bishop,—

"In the power of yourself and your co-parishioners to compel Mr. Grey, by legal proceedings, to discontinue his present illegal practices, nor shall I offer any obstacle to this course, if you should resolve upon its adoption; but I am far from recommending it. The proceedings in the Ecclesiastical Courts are very tedious and very expensive; and after a judgment pronounced in your favour, you only get rid of one illegal and offensive imitation of the ceremonies of the corrupt Romish Church, to have, very possibly, substituted some other ceremony as illegal and objectionable, so that the legal proceedings might be endless."

How very comforting these parishioners must feel this to be! And yet the bishop has behaved very honestly. He has said nothing but the truth. If the Public Worship Facilities Bill had passed into law there might have been another remedy, but, as it is, the only remedy is Dissent. We don't regret it; but we should have thought that our Evangelical friends would have very heartily regretted such an issue.

But Mr. Grey is only one of a considerable number who intend to flout the law. It seems that the English Church Union have adopted a series of strong resolutions distinctly repudiating the decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. They formally declare that those decisions possess "no spiritual validity"; that the suppression of ceremonies and positions judged to be illegal would be "dangerous to the peace and subversive of the liberties of the English Church," and so on. These men claim all the prestige that Establishment by law give to them, but refuse to allow that the law has any authority over their proceedings. Their whole position has been created for them by law, and law alone, but they will obey it, as an obligation, only when they see fit. Is Viscount Sandon's notice appropriate or not?

Very amusing it is to read clerical criticisms and confessions after clerical prognostications. We have read one or two this week. Thus, there have been held several conferences on religious education, one by diocesan inspectors, presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Here a paper was read by the Rev. Evan Daniel, who said that "with regard to the effect of the Act of 1870, it was shown that in spite of the restriction of religious education to a single hour, the withdrawal of Government inspectors, examination in religious knowledge, and the grant of State aid solely for secular teaching, the standard of attainment in religious knowledge had not fallen, while there was even hope that it would be ultimately raised." Mr. Wheeler, a diocesan inspector, spoke to much the same effect, saying that the present system was "stimulating Churchmen to find a remedy in the appointment of regular diocesan inspectors, whose examination is far more thorough and searching than that of Her Majesty's inspectors," while Canon Gregory exclaims that "the difficulties anticipated from the conscience clause had not been found to exist." It is just the same in everything else. The clergy are always finding that their judgment was mistaken, but they go on opposing every reform in the old way, and wondering that the people have ceased to believe in them.

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND THE ANTI-RITUALIST MEMORIAL.

"One who Signed the Memorial" makes lengthy complaints in the *Times* anent the recent Archbishopial answer thereto. He stigmatises the statements of the archbishops as "fallacious utterances," and appeals to the "attached laity" thereon. "The memorialists did not," he says, "expect the bishops to institute proceedings upon every complaint or charge. No one objects to their consideration of the whole of the circumstances before they resort to their courts, but where, even after the decisions obtained, we look in vain for a single case by the Church Association defining the law where a bishop has resorted to his court to procure obedience to the law. If only a few cases had been so dealt with, the lawlessness would have been repressed, and the dangers consequent thereon removed." Again, remarking on the general tone of the Archbishopial answer under consideration, the writer says—"Away with such efforts to evade the grave issues at stake. If the bishops will not act in order to expel the poison, they may well forbear from lecturing the laity as to their duties in the election of churchwardens. 'If we faithfully serve God, He is ready to defend His truth.' I quote

the archbishops, and I ask—Is this reply to the memorial a faithful performance of the duty imposed on the archbishops? Do they faithfully serve God and the Church by thus reducing the responsibility of episcopal government?"

This letter, remarks the *Times*, illustrates the dissatisfaction with which the recent letter of the archbishops has been received. As is usual with indecisive answers, the reply has pleased no one. The more the archbishops' pleas are considered the more irrelevant will most of them appear. How, for instance, is the archbishops' duty affected by the disinclination of the age to respect authority in matters of opinion? What they were asked to do was to assert authority, not in matters of opinion, but in matters of definite legal obligation. No one desires to prevent the ritualists from holding any opinions which may please them. What is demanded by the public is that, so long as they are ministers in the Church of England, they shall not adopt practices flagrantly at variance with her formularies as legally interpreted. It is no question of the respect due to authority, but of that which is due to the fair interpretation of a contract. As a nation we support in the position of an establishment a Protestant Church; we should certainly not support it for a single day if it ceased to be Protestant. We now learn, however, from this unexceptionable source, that a "considerable minority," professedly belonging to the Church, are really doing their best to subvert "the principles of the Reformation." It is sheer inconsequence to treat disobedience of this character as of no graver significance than the traditional neglect of some obsolete rubric. But if the bishops have so great a dread of prosecutions and of their expense, there are other means of influence open to them. It is at least possible for them to withhold all countenance from those of their clergy who adopt unlawful practices. The time has passed for mere appeals to good feeling. The innovating party know their own mind and are resolute, and those who would resist them successfully must exhibit similar decision.

The Rev. Cecil Wray, of Liverpool, a zealous advocate for the use of the confessional in the Church of England, quotes Archdeacon R. J. Wilberforce in defence of his views, asserting that about twenty years ago, when he was the archdeacon's guest at Burton Agnes, he said that the condition of the Irish peasantry contrasted favourably with that of the English as regards morality, a result which, he believed, was owing to their frequent resort to the priests for the purposes of confession. Mr. Wray also states that when the author of the "Christian Year" was staying at his house at Liverpool reference was made to some translations then recently made of certain questions said to have been used by Roman priests in the confessional, and that he suggested to Mr. Keble whether the benefit of a usage liable to such abuse was not questionable. Mr. Keble's reply was, "I know the scandalous publications to which you allude; but if the evil were ten times worse than it is, I am persuaded that all would be but as dust in the balance compared to the value of the confessional." Mr. Wray, in a letter to the *Church Times*, distinctly asserts that both these gentlemen "honestly believed the confessional to be a part of the system of the English Church."

ANTI-CONFESSIONAL MEETING AT EXETER HALL.

A meeting was held on Monday night in Exeter Hall to consider the petition lately presented to the Upper House of Convocation by 483 clergymen of the Church of England. The body of the large hall was densely filled, and on the platform, which was overflowing with its numbers, was assembled an influential body of clergy and laity of the Established Church. The chair was taken, amid loud cheers, by the Earl of Shaftesbury, who was accompanied to the platform by Mr. Newdegate, M.P., Mr. Greene, M.P., Archdeacon Hunter, the Rev. E. Garbett, the Rev. J. W. Reeve, Mr. George Cruikshank, Colonel Macdonald, Admiral Fishbourne, Dr. Holt Yates, &c. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. Daniel Wilson. Letters from the Marquis of Downshire, the Rev. Lord Dynevor, Admiral Sullivan, the Dean of Carlisle, and others, were read by Captain Palmer, expressing the sympathy of the writers with the object of the meeting, and the sentiments contained therein, which were denunciatory of the practice of auricular confession, were loudly cheered.

The Noble CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, addressed the meeting as the "clergy and laity of the Church of England, friends of the Reformation of the Church of England, and friends of a further Reformation if need be." (Tremendous cheering.) His lordship said that a daring, an open, a most foul and wicked attack had been made on the integrity of the Reformation and the purity of the Church of England, and this meeting was here, under God's blessing, and in His name, to say they would stand to the last—(cheers)—and resist these unholy efforts. There was no endeavour they would not make, no labour they would not undertake, rather than see the Church of England brought down to the very depths of pollution. (Cheers.) A petition had been presented by 400—it was an ominous number; the prophets of the groves were 400 that sat at Jezebel's table—(laughter)—a petition had been presented by over 400 clergymen of the Church of England, to the Upper House of Convocation, praying that venerable house to consider the advisability of providing for the education and licensing of duly qualified

confessors, in accordance with the provisions of the canonical law. That was presented to the bishops of the southern province. Now, if such a petition had been presented to the members of this meeting collectively or individually, how would they have received it? They would have said, "Away with the unclean thing!" (Loud cheering.) What! receive a petition in degradation of God's Holy Word—of the Divine Sacrament! Receive such a petition as that! Why the word "inadmissible" was not strong enough; you would have cast it from you with scorn and disgust. (Renewed cheering.) Suppose a petition had been presented for the abolition of episcopacy—(laughter)—would the bishops have pondered for a moment? Suppose it had been a petition for the removal of their lordships from the House of Lords, would they have pondered for a moment? (Cries of "No.") Ah, then, they would see how this petition ought to have been received. But how was it received? Why, this proposterous, this most inconceivable, this most hateful proposition, was received, discussed, and deliberated upon; and the language throughout the whole discussion was soft and delicate and apathetic; and the resolution gave no hope of resoluteness in action. The hardest term that their lordships applied to it was that it was a serious error on the part of the petitioners. How could their lordships deliberate? Was there a man among them who would dare to say that the mere proposition itself was not a positive scandal to the Holy Scriptures? And to take into consideration such a proposition as that and say that "they would see how far this was inconsistent with the rubrics of the Church of England!" What had the members of the Church of England to do with the rubrics? If such a matter was inconsistent with Holy Writ let all the rubrics go to the winds! (Continued cheering.) It was not consistent with the rubrics. God forbid. And their lordships knew that it was not consistent with the rubrics, and why did they not come forward like Christian men and say so? Why did they not say, without hesitation, "Away with this foul rag that you have brought here, stained with all the pollution of the Red Lady of Babylon." (Renewed cheering.) It seemed that those who had sworn to drive away heresy, instead of driving it away, had themselves been driven away by it. What then was done? The mealy-mouthed result, the contemptible result, unworthy of reasonable men, and more than unworthy of episcopal men, was not a decision, not a resolution, not an answer, but a mere reference of the petition to a committee. And a committee for what purpose? Ah! he wished the Bishop of Durham had been in that convocation—(great cheering)—his voice alone would have been sufficient, for they would not have dared to disobey the voice of a man speaking with all the force of Scriptural majesty and truth. It had thus become necessary that the laity should take the matter into their own hand and such of the clergy as would go along with them. (Cheers.) He had written to the Archbishop of Canterbury and asked what was the purpose of the episcopal bench. The archbishop replied that the matter had been considered by the bishops, that they had gone into their dioceses, and they would not meet again till early in July. With this soothing syrup he was obliged to reply to the archbishop that the clergy and laity must not be considered precipitate if, under these circumstances, they proceeded at once to action. And here they were—(cheers)—and by God's blessing here they would be. His lordship then proceeded to declare that many of the clergy were not only going Romeward, but were actually in Rome already, and to cite from various accredited books passages describing what he characterised as the hideous bestiality—and even that, he said, was a weak term—practised in the confessional. There was one test he would apply to those who were labouring to introduce the confessional into the Church. Would they appoint female confessors? (Prolonged cheering.) That was a test by which it would fall to the winds, because if female confessors were appointed every confessional box in England would be broken up for firewood in six weeks. (Renewed cheering.) Who were to blame for all the scandal in the Church? (Cries, which lasted for some time, "The bishops, the bishops.") If the Church of England wavered in allegiance to her principles, then let her go—(loud cheers)—and all the bishops with her. (Renewed vociferous cheering, which lasted for some time.) From the bottom of his soul he said, "Perish all things, so that Christ be magnified." (Great cheering.)

Sir T. CHAMBERS, seconded by the Rev. C. DALLAS MARSTON, moved the first resolution, which was unanimously carried:—

That this meeting views with sorrow and indignation the petition lately presented to the Upper House of Convocation by 483 clergymen of the Church of England, regarding such petition not only as a defiant proclamation of false and Romish doctrine and practice, but also as a most reprehensible attempt to undo the great work of our glorious Reformation, and to bring the Church of England into reunion with the Church of Rome.

Mr. Marston, referring to what the bishops could do, said that on analysing the signatures, he found that 260 were the names of curates or of men not in the position of beneficed incumbents. It was in the power of the bishops to withdraw the licence of every curate who had signed that petition, and to prohibit unbeneficed clergymen from officiating in their dioceses. What was wanted was a reform of ecclesiastical processes, and the question before the meeting must become a hustings question.

The Rev. J. BARDSELY, rector of Stepney, moved the second resolution:—

That the open attempts now being made to introduce and

legalise the Romish doctrine and practice of sacramental and auricular confession and sacerdotal absolution constitute a serious danger to the Church and State of England, and this meeting pledges itself to resist every effort to bring into our Protestant Church practices which are contrary to God's Word, unauthorised by the formularies of the Church, and fatal to the peace and morality of individuals and families.

Mr. NEWDEGATE, M.P., in seconding the resolution, referred to the suspension some years ago of Mr. Poole, by the then Bishop of London, now Archbishop of Canterbury, as a proof of what the bishops could do to suppress auricular confession if they were disposed. He had listened with delight to the cordial, dignified, and genuine expressions of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who showed that he felt it not only his duty, but that it was his will, to suppress these innovations. (A Voice: Why does he not withdraw the licences?) The archbishop had done more; he had told them to be careful in electing in each parish churchwardens on whom they could rely, for these were the officers with whom action lay. Had not the clergymen of the Church been admitted to their livings on certain conditions? If so, might the men who broke these conditions not be proceeded against for breach of contract? (Loud cheers.) And when they petitioned by hundreds, might they not be proceeded against for conspiracy? These were legal questions; but he recommended each parish in London to copy the example of St. George's, Hanover-square. The resolution was unanimously carried.

The third resolution, which was moved by Mr. INSKIP, of Clifton, and seconded by Mr. T. R. ANDREWS, chairman of the Church Association, was also unanimously carried. It ran as follows:—

That this meeting expresses its strong conviction that it is the duty of the archbishops and bishops to take immediate and active measures for repressing the erroneous practices complained of, and trusts that there will be such an expression of opinion throughout the country as will evidence the determination of the laity no longer to endure practices which imperil the very existence of our Protestant Reformed Church, as well as our civil and religious liberties, and this meeting resolves that copies of these resolutions be sent to the bishops.

On the motion of Mr. GREENE, M.P., a hearty vote of thanks was given to the noble chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

MR. R. W. DALE ON THE EDUCATION BILL AND THE POLICY OF NONCONFORMISTS.

A public meeting of Nonconformists was held, under the auspices of the Central Nonconformist Committee, in the lecture-room of Carr's-lane Chapel, Birmingham, on Thursday evening; Mr. W. Middlemore occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance.

The CHAIRMAN, after some remarks on the work of the committee, said that one thing was plain, that the great question of religious equality now occupied the public mind and was gradually obtaining public acceptance. The time was approaching when it would never be said that the Nonconformists of Great Britain, of all the large English-speaking family, were without the full rights of citizenship; but rather that they would be able to say, in common with their brethren of America and Canada, Australia and Ireland, that they were no longer under the cold shade of sectarian ascendancy. (Applause.)

The Rev. H. W. CROSSKEY then gave a sketch of the principal operations of the central committee during the last twelve months in reference to the Scotch Education Bill, the Irish University Bill, and the Endowed Schools question, the latter of which had occupied a large share of the time and energy of the committee.

A vacancy occurring on the commission, the committee made representations to obtain the appointment of a Nonconformist commissioner, but without success. A deputation of the committee and others waited upon the commissioners, and they had a lively interview with Lord Lyttelton and his colleagues. Mr. Leatham undertook the case, and entered a motion on the books of the House of Commons with respect to the subject. Mr. Forster met it by moving for a select committee, on which Mr. Leatham was appointed. Mr. Brown and Mr. Schnadhorst gave evidence before the committee, the effect of which had been to make a great impression on many members of the House. The report of the committee, however, was described in the *Times* that morning as decidedly of a reactionary character. It proposed to retain an ecclesiastical officer as *ex-officio* governor of an endowed school if such an appointment was directed by the original foundation; and also to modify Clause 19, so as to secure a certain number of the schools to the Church of England. A special fund had been raised to carry on the agitation with reference to this matter, and nearly 1,100, had been subscribed. The committee welcomed this as a sign of confidence in them. Among the donors were twelve members of Parliament, some of them members of the Church of England, who acknowledged the justice of their work. The report of the Endowed Schools Commissioners contained the following passage:—"We have been told that in some of our schemes, passed or approved or published, there appears such and such numbers of co-optative trustees; and that a preponderance has been given to one party both in civil politics and ecclesiastical politics. Whether the statement is accurate or inaccurate we do not know, nor do we propose to inquire." (Laughter.) The committee had made the inquiry for the commissioners, and obtained returns from every part of the country. In one hundred schemes examined there were 441 governors named by the commissioners, of whom 128 were Liberals and 313 Tories, 385 were Churchmen and 43 Nonconformists. In sixty schemes not a single Nonconformist was appointed. Although the clerical *ex-officio*s were excluded by the decision of a committee of the Privy Council, there were 81 clergymen appointed and only five Dissenting ministers.

The speaker then referred to the various phases of the agitation against the Education Act and Mr. Forster's Amendment Bill.

Mr. SCHNADHORST read the financial statement, from which it appeared that the expenditure of the committee for the past year had been 924*l.* 19*s.*, and that at the present time there was a balance due to the bank of 16*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*

The CHAIRMAN then moved, and the Rev. J. M. MCKERROW seconded, a resolution, adopting the report and approving the action of the committee during the past year, which was carried.

Mr. J. S. WRIGHT then read a list of new members of the committee, for the approval of the meeting. The names were approved, and a vote of thanks was passed to the committee, the chairman, and Mr. R. W. Dale, the Rev. H. W. Crosskey and the Rev. J. J. Brown, hon. secretaries, for their services during the past year.

Mr. R. W. DALE moved:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the provisions of the Elementary Education Act Amendment Bill altogether fail to remove the objections of Nonconformists to the original Act, are unsatisfactory on general grounds of public policy, and constitute an additional reason for regarding the present Government as unworthy of the confidence of the friends of religious equality.

After some preliminary remarks the proceeded to notice those sections of the Education Act Amendment Bill, in which, as Nonconformists, they were specially interested. These were the sections which provided for the payment of the fees of indigent children; and the indigent children whose fees had to be paid and provided out of the public funds, were divided by the bill into two classes. In the first place, there were children of out-door paupers, numbering, according to Mr. Forster's estimate—and he (Mr. Dale) feared the estimate was not an exaggerated one—about 200,000. In the next place, there were children—their number being altogether unknown—whose parents were not on the parish, but were, nevertheless, unable to pay the small fees required to provide for their education. Now, he would refer first of all to the manner in which the bill dealt with the children of out-door paupers. Those children had been partly provided for under what was generally known as Denison's Act, which enabled boards of guardians, if they pleased to exercise the power, to require that the children of all persons receiving outdoor relief should be sent to an elementary school. It also enabled them to pay the fees for these children out of the rates. What Mr. Forster proposed was that the guardians should be required to enforce the attendance of the children of out-door paupers at school, and to pay their fees. Four or five years ago he (Mr. Dale) should have received those proposals of Mr. Forster with great satisfaction. It was far better that a child should be sent to a sectarian school than to no school at all. (Hear, hear.) And if there were no funds out of which its education could be provided for except the poor-rate, he for one should most cheerfully consent to the poor-rate being employed for that purpose. But when they had schools under the control of the ratepayers, separated, according to idea at least, from sectarian influences, it appeared to him that the true policy of the Government was to provide, wherever school boards existed, that children of out-door paupers should be sent to them. Let them look at the more important part of the question. The bill dealt with another class of children, and there was a large number of parents who had a great horror of going upon the parish, but who in hard times, and times of bad trade, were altogether unable to pay school fees for their children. In the Elementary Education Act, 1870, the school board was empowered to deal with children of that class in two ways: it might remit fees in its own schools, or pay the fees out of the education rate, if their parents sent them to sectarian schools. Mr. Forster proposed to repeal the 25th clause of the Elementary Education Act, under which school boards were empowered to pay the fees of children attending sectarian schools, and he transferred that power to the guardians of the poor. He was not satisfied, however, with transferring that power to the guardians, but he required the guardians to pay the fees when the poverty of the parents was proved. On general grounds of public policy he (Mr. Dale) objected to tempting the independent poor into the parish offices. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Forster provided in his bill that the allowance made by the guardians to parents who were unable to pay the school fees of their children, should not be deemed parochial relief. (Laughter.) Now that reminded him of a story he heard the other day. A farmer went into the city of Boston one cold winter's morning, and heard a boy crying, "Hot mince pies." The weather made him think that a hot mince pie would be very pleasant and acceptable, so he bought one. After buying it, he found that it was absolutely frozen. He therefore said to the boy, "You scoundrel! you called 'hot mince pies,' and you see they are cold." "That's the name of them," he replied. (Laughter.) The farmer was not altogether satisfied with the explanation; he felt there was a certain unreality in it; and depend upon it, that to alter the name of what was received from the guardians would not destroy its pernicious influence on the character of people who received it. (Applause.) The thin distinction created by the bill between parochial relief and the allowance made out of the poor rates for purposes of education, would soon disappear. If the people felt that both payments were received from the same authorities, through the hands of the same person, and out of the same funds, they would

be altogether unable to distinguish between them. (Hear, hear.) He thought that was a most grave fault of statesmanship on Mr. Forster's part. (Hear, hear.) One of the most serious and perplexing problems of the hour was the rapid development of the pauperism of the country. (Hear, hear.) On what were they to rely for its cure? Partly and largely upon the spirit of the people. They all knew that among the respectable poor there was an intense horror, at present, of receiving any assistance from the poor rate. There was a positive superstition—if they were disposed to call it so—on their part, preventing them from applying to the guardians. There were thousands and tens of thousands of the poor who would sell every stick of furniture they possessed, and pawn every article of clothing, to keep them from starving, rather than accept parish relief. It was their duty to encourage that feeling—(Hear, hear); and they ought not to tempt those people to go to the parish by telling them that what they received should not be deemed parochial relief. When they had become accustomed to go to the guardians for their children, they would soon get accustomed to go for themselves. (Hear, hear.) Nonconformists, therefore, objected to the proposal on the grounds of public policy. They had also this further objection—that it constituted a new extension of the vicious principle of providing for the maintenance of sectarian schools out of the rates. Mr. Forster had already extended that principle in connection with the consolidated fund, making the payments out of that fund larger than they ever were before, and he went on to apply the same principle to the education rate in the payment of fees. He now turned upon the poor rate, and resolved that it should be employed upon a large scale for the same purpose. Mr. Dale then went on to speak of the support given to Mr. Forster by the Conservatives, and said there was no doubt that the transfer of the payment of fees to the guardians would somewhat disguise the character of the transaction. It would be urged from one end of the country to the other, that the payment was not made to schools, but to parents, in order to assist them in their poverty. Mr. Dale read an extract from the *Spectator* on the subject, and said that paper under-rated the keenness of popular apprehensions, for if the guardians in Birmingham were required to pay 1,000*l.* or 1,200*l.* a-year out of the poor-rate for the support of children in sectarian schools, popular apprehension would be sufficiently keen to discover that the guardians were subsidising the sectarian schools of the borough. Mr. Forster did not give a certain amount of money to the parent to dispose of as he pleased. He made a grant of 2*d.* to the parent on the distinct understanding that every farthing should be handed over to the sectarian school to which the child was sent, notwithstanding that within twenty yards of the parent's door there might be a school-board school, under the control of the ratepayers, with room for the child on its benches. (Hear, hear.) On the ground of the great principle of religious equality they were compelled to protest, and to protest vehemently, against that proposal. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Dale then alluded to the contests of the two parties on school boards—the clergy and Conservatives supporting the educational principles of a Liberal Government being on one side, and the Liberal electors on the other with regard to the question of the payment of fees to denominational schools—and having dwelt on the fact that Mr. Forster made this power permissive with school boards, but compulsory with guardians, said the infatuation of the Government seemed to him perfectly amazing. (Hear, hear.) In districts where clerical and Conservative influence was strong Mr. Forster left it unfettered as to the payment of fees, but in districts where Liberal influence had been sufficiently strong to prevent the payment of the fees of children attending denominational schools out of the public funds, Mr. Forster fettered it by making that payment compulsory. In both directions Mr. Forster betrayed the principles on which alone Nonconformists could support any Government whatever. (Hear, hear.) By what he had left undone, Mr. Forster sustained and strengthened the local and obstructive power of Conservatism; and by what he had done, he weakened the local influence of Liberalism. (Applause.) Another portion of the bill which required their notice was Clause 13, which would allow school boards to become trustees of educational endowments, whether sectarian or unsectarian. Under that clause it would be possible for some zealous adherent of the Episcopalian Church, who was anxious to provide for the perpetual instruction of children in the Church catechism, to leave a thousand pounds to the school board for the purpose of providing prizes to be contended for in the public elementary schools, and to be awarded to the children who could say the catechism most perfectly year by year. Under the clause in question the school board might discharge the trust, and might be made a permanent agent for promulgating the doctrines taught in the Episcopalian document to which he had alluded. The board might also have to accept a like trust to secure the instruction of the children not only in Unitarianism, but also in Unitarian doctrine. That kind of thing would be altogether intolerable, and it appeared to him that such a limitation should be placed to that clause as to prevent school boards becoming the trustees of endowments created for sectarian purposes. He was glad to say there were several good elements in the bill when generally considered, and one in particular, which they, as Nonconformists and friends of religious equality,

must approve. Mr. Forster proposed to repeal the 25th Clause, under which fees were paid for children attending sectarian schools. Mr. Forster proposed to render payment of fees by the parents compulsory, but there was a clause which provided that the school board might on proof of poverty of the parents remit fees in the case of parents attending its own schools. He left that clause unrepealed; and if the bill passed in its present shape, parents who wished for assistance in order that their children might attend sectarian schools, would have to apply to the guardians of the poor; while parents who were content that their children should receive education in board schools might obtain assistance by application to the school board, as at present. He could not say that that was a good piece of legislative work to have two separate bodies dealing with a question of that sort, but, on the contrary, he treated it as a legislative bungle. He thought the bill would require very careful watching as it passed through the House. Before sitting down, Mr. Dale said he was bound to say that the bill seemed to him to confirm all the worst predictions of the leaders of the Nonconformist revolt in relation to the probable educational policy of the Government. (Hear, hear.) If they had not already parted company with the Government, the Government had at least parted company with them. (Applause.) They had deliberately chosen a retrograde policy, and although Nonconformists had cherished very hearty loyalty to the old leaders of the Liberal party, their loyalty to the principles which both were called upon to defend was more intense and deeper than their loyalty to those leaders. (Hear, hear.) The time had come when Nonconformists were at last thrown upon themselves. For a time, perhaps for a few years, they would have to act independently of the recognised leaders of the great historical party. (Hear, hear.) The old union between them and the Nonconformists, which had been so fruitful in the largest and happiest results to the country, was now dissolved. (Hear, hear.) He did not regard the dissolution of that union with any degree of satisfaction. The spectacle which they had seen at Bath during the last few days—(applause)—was not altogether an edifying one. He regretted that there should be any necessity for it, but it would have to recur again and again—(loud applause)—in constituency after constituency, until the Liberal party had learnt to apprehend more distinctly and intelligently what those principles were which alone would secure for it the confidence of the great mass of the Nonconformists of the country. (Hear, hear.) He felt that it was their duty to encourage their friends in every constituency in the kingdom whenever a mere Ministerialist invited their suffrages to run another man, who, whether he won or lost, should stand on the principles of religious equality. (Applause.) They had a hard lesson to learn. It would be very hard for them to learn that the triumph of the so-called Liberal candidate did not always mean their triumph. It would be very hard for them to learn that the defeat of the so-called Liberal candidate ought not to awaken, in very many cases, any distress in their minds, as his success would have given them no satisfaction. It was necessary to break old political ties, and to escape from the influence of the old political traditions; but they had absolutely no choice. The Government had given its final answer to all their protests. (Hear.) That bill had not been brought forward in ignorance. Six months ago, in company with other gentlemen, he saw Mr. Forster, and placed before him everything that had been said since the bill had been before Parliament, in the way of objections to its provisions. Having thought over the question for five months, the Government had distinctly broken with them, and with all with whom they were accustomed to co-operate, by offering this solution of the difficulty created by the 25th clause. The matter might be slight in itself, but it was infinitely significant. (Hear, hear.) It was a clear indication on the part of the Government of what its intentions were with regard to its future educational policy. The course to which they were driven was not a pleasant one. He thought two years ago that it was probable they would come to the position in which they stood that night. It seemed to him at the time he alluded to that there was no hope for the immediate reconstruction of the Liberal party on the basis of the principle of religious equality. For a time they would have no legislation in their direction. They had been so accustomed to success during the last twenty-five years—although that success had been slow and very gradual—that it would be very hard for some of them to endure the change which was obviously pending; but after a long succession of bright and fair days the storm, which had been gradually gathering, was now ready to break. It would try the temper of which they were made, and test their fidelity to the principles they professed. As for the members of the Central Nonconformist Committee, they intended to pursue the policy which they had indicated. (Applause.) In pursuing that policy they would incur the bitter reproaches of their own political leaders. (A voice: "Never mind.") They would bring upon themselves passionate complaints from the less robust members of the Nonconformist community in different parts of the country, they would be exposed to all kinds of insult, slander, and contumely; but they relied upon the generous confidence and the hearty support of those constituencies who during the last three years had stood by them during the early movements of the storm; and they believed that when the storm was passed brighter, sunnier, and

better days than England had ever seen were destined for them. (Loud applause.)

The motion was seconded by Councillor DOWNING, and, having been supported by the Rev. F. S. JOHNSTONE (Wolverhampton) and by Mr. R. D. KNEEBONE, was carried unanimously.

The Rev. J. J. BROWN then moved—

That this meeting observes with regret that in the report of the Endowed Schools Committee, just presented to the House of Commons, no provision is made for securing that the Act shall be administered fairly as regards all religious communities, and that all the recommendations adopted by the committee are intended to restrict in a sectarian direction the existing provisions of the Act. This meeting, therefore, earnestly trusts that their friends in the House of Commons will support any attempt which may be made to secure religious equality, both in the provisions of the Act and in its administration.

Mr. MARRIS seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Dr. Garnier, who resigned the deanery of Winchester about a year ago, died on Sunday in his ninety-eighth year. He was appointed Dean of Winchester in 1840.

CHURCH AND STATE SERMONS.—Sermons were preached on Sunday at many of the churches in Hackney, Haggerston, Bethnal-green, and the neighbourhood, on "The Scriptural Character of the Church of England." The arrangements for the sermons were made at the suggestion of the Hackney branch of the London Working Men's Church Defence Council.

THE VICAR OF SHEFFIELD DISTRAINING FOR TITHE RENT.—The Vicar of Sheffield has just put in a distraint for tithe rent said to be due to him from a grocer named Kay, living at Attercliffe. On Monday last week the bailiffs went to the house and took a clock, value 34s., because the man refused to pay the rent charge, which, with expenses, amounted to about 10s. The clock was sold by auction on Saturday, by the agent of the vicar, outside a public-house. It fetched 15s., and the difference was returned to the grocer. The affair has caused considerable indignation in the neighbourhood, several persons calling it a "cursed imposition," and others stating that the clergy are so poor that they cannot exist without the aid of the Dissenter.

THE SNUBBING OF THE BISHOPS BY THE PEERS.—Last night, however, their lordships met in full force. Not only were the lay peers in great strength on both sides, but the state of the Episcopal Bench, fully manned with the two archbishops at the head of their corps, showed that we were in for one of those ecclesiastical fights into which the House always throws itself with so much zest. The subject-matter was a bill for enabling bishops to license buildings for worship according to the rites of the Church of England in parishes with or without the assent of the incumbent. As Lord Shaftesbury had given notice of his intention to move its rejection, our first impression was that the measure was to be attacked from the point of view of the party in the Church with which he is more especially connected. But as soon as the Earl of Carnarvon sat down, after a rather apologetic sort of speech, which somehow indicated that he was not quite at ease, the other noble earl, who spoke with an energy and vigour worthy of his best days, made it perfectly plain that this was by no means the case—that in point of fact the real issue was one of confidence or no confidence in the bishops. More than that, it soon became evident from the applause which greeted Lord Shaftesbury's most pointed observations, that distrust of the right rev. bench was by no means confined to one side of the House. That it was most marked on the Tory side is plain, not only during the discussion, but by the still more significant test of the vote. In vain did the Archbishop of Canterbury endeavour to save the bill by one of those judiciously balanced, give-and-take, elaborately candid, and ostentatiously moderate speeches in which he excels, and by which he amply vindicates his title to a post for which, in these days, discretion and a capacity for skilful dancing amongst eggs are the first qualifications. The members of the Government and a good many of the Whig peers, faithful to the policy of conciliating doubtful friends, voted with the episcopal bench. But the Tory leaders, with the exception of the Earl of Carnarvon, voted almost, if not quite, to a man against the right rev. bench, who, by the way, voted for themselves quite to a man. The result you know, and it is one which can hardly be regarded in any other light than as a "slap in the face" administered to the episcopal bench. More dissatisfaction with some of their ways of going on was again rather strongly manifested later in the evening, when the Admission to Benefices, &c., Bill was under discussion. Lord Shaftesbury's plain speaking on the subject of the fees of their officials found marked sympathy again amongst the Tory peers; the Government wisely standing aloof and letting the Church and its friends *par excellence* wrangle the matter out amongst themselves, which they did, at times, in quite a lively manner.—*London Correspondent of Manchester Examiner.*

In struggling to make a dull-brained boy understand what conscience is, a teacher asked, "What makes you feel uncomfortable after you have done wrong?" "My papa's big leather strap," feelingly replied the boy.

Religious and Denominational News.

CHRIST CHURCH.—PERPETUATION OF SURREY CHAPEL.

The ceremony of laying the memorial stone of this building was performed by Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., on Thursday last, June 26th, at three o'clock, after which a tea and public meeting was held. The day, if not everything that could be desired so far as the weather was concerned, was yet sufficiently pleasant to give an air of great joyousness to the momentous occasion, and if the shades of Rowland Hill and James Sherman were present they must have hovered over their successor with truly paternal delight, though they might have felt somewhat sad at the change of name adopted by the Rev. Newman Hall and his coadjutors. "Surrey Chapel" has become an historic name in the annals of Nonconformity, whereas Christ Church, in the estimation of many, is hardly historic or expressive.

The history of the well-known sanctuary of which "Christ Church" is the perpetuation, may briefly be told. In 1780 the reverend father of Rowland Hill died, leaving him an ample fortune. Shortly after this event the project of "Surrey Chapel" assumed shape and form. The first stone was laid in 1782, and the chapel opened June 8, 1783. The thoroughfare was then called the St. George's-road, though afterwards, on account of the bridge which connects it with the city, it became the Blackfriars-road. Mr. Hill, as a rule, preached about six months out of the twelve at "Surrey," devoting the residue of the year to evangelising efforts, both in England and Scotland. His place was supplied during his absence by men whose names were familiar as household words to the Dissenters of the past generation, and who are not yet forgotten by some who remain. At his death he left a sum of money to accumulate for the continuance of the work at the falling in of the Surrey Chapel lease, which, however, coming under the statute of mortmain, reverted to the residuary legatees, the Village Itinerancy (now the Hackney College trustees), who have reaped all the advantage from funds certainly not intended for their benefit. This laid a heavy burden of responsibility upon the present pastor, his elders and people—a responsibility from which, however, they did not shrink. For years, therefore, they have steadily prepared for the work, now getting so near to the desired consummation, and have ever been cheered by the fixity of purpose, devotion, and self-denying energy of Mr. Newman Hall, whose personal influence and preaching services have realised no small share of the large amount required for the completion of the work.

At the laying of the foundation-stone of Old Surrey Chapel in 1782, Rowland Hill addressed the people from the words, "Behold I lay in Sion a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation," and when he opened it for Divine worship on June 8, 1783, he preached from the words, "We preach Christ crucified." Mr. Hill was the pastor of the church until his death, on April 11th, 1833, a period of nearly fifty years. The pulpit was then supplied by various ministers, until on September 4, 1836, the Rev. James Sherman commenced his pastorate. In May, 1854, he resigned in consequence of enfeebled health. Mr. Sherman was succeeded by the Rev. Newman Hall, of Hull, who still remains at Surrey Chapel.

On Thursday last the laying of the foundation-stone of the new edifice was performed under one of Messrs. Edgington's largest tents, and some 2,000 persons were present, among whom, and upon the platform were Mr. Morley, M.P., Mr. Alderman McArthur, M.P., Colonel Beresford, M.P., Mr. C. Gilpin, M.P., Sir Titus Salt, Professor Hoppus, Mr. H. Wright, J.P., Mr. J. Kemp Welch, J.P., the Rev. Newman Hall (the pastor), the Rev. H. Grainger (the assistant minister), the Revs. Hugh Allen (Episcopalian), R. Thomas, Edward White, Dr. Raleigh, Samuel Minton (Episcopalian), Thomas Penrose, A. Hall, G. M. Murphy, Dr. Leask, J. C. Harrison, R. D. Wilson, S. March, E. G. Cecil, N. Jennings, J. Foster, T. Sissons, Hiles Hitchens, J. Grigsby, W. Marshall, W. Gill, Dr. Davis, Dr. Jervis; and Messrs. A. Rooker (of Plymouth), A. J. Joy, W. Webb, J. Goodman, J. J. Frederick, John Glanville, Alfred Pocock, Warren Hall, Finch, A. Dunn, Godfrey Saunders, &c.; and Messrs. Paul and Bickerdike, the architects.

Soon after three o'clock the service commenced (a printed service having been prepared by Mr. Hall for the occasion) by the singing of a "Sanctus," and the "Gloria in Excelsis" was then repeated by the ministers and congregation. A number of short prayers were offered by the Rev. Newman Hall and the following ministers:—Messrs. H. Grainger, Dr. Allen, R. Thomas, Edward White, Dr. Raleigh, Samuel Minton, Thomas Penrose, A. Hall, G. M. Murphy, Dr. Leask, J. C. Harrison, D. Wilson, S. March, E. G. Cecil, N. Jennings, &c. Several selections from the Psalms were then sung, after which the Rev. Arthur Hall read the first lesson, which was taken from the First Book of Chronicles and the Kings. The second lesson, which was taken chiefly from the New Testament, was read by the Revs. H. Grainger and N. Hall, the congregation occasionally responding, as indicated by the service. Three hymns, respectively commencing, "Christ is made the sure foundation," "The church's one foundation," and "O Lord of Hosts whose glory fills," were sung at intervals in the service, and then came the cere-

mony of the day, laying the memorial-stone in its position by Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P. The bottle being previously placed in the stone by Sir Titus Salt, contained an account on vellum respecting the memorial-stone of the new church, a copy of the form of service used on the occasion, a photograph of the mother of the pastor, a photograph of the old chapel, a copy of the *Times* newspaper, and copies of "Come to Jesus," "The Sinner's Friend," &c., &c.

Mr. Morley, who must by this be somewhat proficient in laying foundation-stones, did his work well. The mallet and level were the same as used by Her Majesty in laying the foundation-stone of the Royal Albert Orphanage Asylum at Bagshot, and by the Prince of Wales when laying the foundation-stone of the London Orphan Asylum, Watford. The trowel, presented to him by Messrs. R. and C. Bowman, of Goswell-road, was a magnificent silver-gilt one, on which the following inscription was engraved: "Presented to Samuel Morley, Esq., M.P., on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of Christ Church, perpetuation of Surrey Chapel, founded by Rowland Hill, in 1873, pastor, the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B., on Thursday, the 26th June, 1873." On it being declared that the stone was well and truly laid, there was hearty applause; after which the Doxology was sung, sundry short prayers were offered, and then Mr. Morley delivered the following address:—

There was no man in England for whom he was prepared to render a service more readily than the Rev. Newman Hall, and it afforded him much pleasure to be able to testify to the extent and value of what he had done, not for a denomination, but for the benefit and the blessing of the people generally. Although aware of the special character of the church at Surrey Chapel, he thought he was warranted in stating that it was essentially Nonconformist; that, although founded by Mr. Rowland Hill, who left the Church of England not on the ground of the Establishment, but on other grounds which were satisfactory and conclusive to his conscience, he believed he was right in saying that the distinct feature of the Church at Surrey Chapel was similar to that which distinguished Congregational churches throughout England, and that was "freedom." They asserted their right to manage their own affairs; they repudiated all external authority; and did what all honest men did, "bore their own charges," and so maintained an independent position. With that clear understanding, he thought there was nothing in the nature of the church at Surrey Chapel that should prevent Episcopalians joining heartily in its worship. For himself, although distinctly attached to the special system with which he had always been identified, he had never felt more strongly than he did now that, in the interest of truth, and with the view to the special benefit of the people universally, the sooner any attempt merely to build up denominational interests was got rid of the better. One of the greatest problems of the day was, "How we shall reach the people." He was becoming more and more satisfied that amongst the great mass of the population there was a greater distaste now than formerly for that which was simply sectarian and denominational; therefore he thought the establishment in this part of London of such a church as he felt certain Christ Church would be, would be very acceptable. The district in which the church would be situated was one distinguished for the extent of its population and the poverty of that population, and he was convinced that the mode of worship that would be adopted, and that was now adopted in Surrey Chapel, was calculated to attract them. He congratulated Mr. Hall upon the great success which had hitherto attended his efforts, and said he was pleased to have been an investor in this undertaking, and had no doubt that he should be called upon again, and with others would also feel it to be a privilege to render further help. He hoped the pastor's health would be preserved, for he might tell him that he reckoned largely upon his future earnest efforts in connection not only with the preaching of the Gospel, but with every form of organisation calculated to raise the social position and cheer the onward way of the great masses of the people. There was abundant scope in this district for all his efforts, and there were few churches that could compare with Surrey Chapel, either as to the extent of school effort or of the various other agencies calculated to lessen domestic and social misery, and to elevate the spiritual condition of the people. He concluded by expressing a hope that the new church would have a glorious future; that the various agencies in connection with it would go on increasing, and that every one in this district would be led to look back with thankfulness upon the event of this day.

The address was cordially received, and at the close was very loudly cheered.

The Rev. Newman Hall, had previously stated that the church spire was designed as an Anglo-American international monument commemorative of the abolition of slavery. Half of the estimated cost had been raised in America, where the sum of 2,000*l.* was already in hand, and it was desired to raise the other half by special donations in England. About 1,000*l.* was still required for that object. The church, the memorial stone of which was to be laid on this occasion, would accommodate 2,500 people, and 2,000 of the seats would be open pews. He expected the cost would not be less than 25,000*l.*, and towards this, by the constant efforts of the congregation, aided by the generosity of friends, the sum of 13,500*l.* was now in hand, exclusive of donations for this special occasion. About 11,500*l.* was now needed to be laid on the stone on this occasion. He then mentioned that the venerable statesman Earl Russell, who had been the faithful champion of religious freedom and unsectarian and Scriptural education, had consented to lay the foundation-stone, and appointed this day for it; but subsequently his lordship asked to be excused on account of his health, expressing, however, in the kindest manner, his sympathy with them in their benevolent and educational operations.

Their generous friend—Mr. Morley—the friend of all churches—who had already consented to assist Earl Russell, readily assented to the request that he would take his lordship's place. Subsequently to the laying of the stone, Mr. Hall followed Mr. Morley in speaking, and said that he thanked God for that day, and for all the help he had afforded to him and his people all through their enterprise until the present. He also thanked all the friends outside his own denomination who had so cheerfully aided; and expressed his gratitude to the ministers and officers of churches in town and country, who had permitted him to plead the cause in their pulpits, as well as to the respective congregations for their liberal responses. He added:—

It is with peculiar feelings that I thank my own congregation, who in their comparative poverty have abounded in liberality, and in every way have strengthened their minister's hands. Besides contributions given during fourteen years, they subscribed on one Sunday last year 2,600*l.*, making it up to 3,000*l.* next day. A bazaar realised 1,300*l.*, and the gifts of the very poor, offered with affection and prayer, have caused me much gladness, and have amply repaid all my anxieties and toil. I wish to thank very earnestly the members of the Rowland Hill Committee for their diligent and conscientious labour in bringing our great enterprise to its present position; and I have to thank also the sub-committee and the ladies for having taken off my mind all anxieties and off my hands all labour in connection with the arrangements of this day. And now I have to thank those who have come to-day in such numbers for the sympathy and the encouragement thus shown, and I would entreat their prayers that God may establish the work of our hands upon us. Having alluded to the assistance rendered by some who are now no more, he said they had decided to call the new church Christ Church, and he hoped it would never be unfaithful to its name, but that in it would be carried forward into the future all the old traditions of Surrey Chapel, associated as that chapel was with the honoured names of Rowland Hill and James Sherman; that the worship would be pure and simple; that there would still be united the sublime liturgy of the Church of England with free prayer; and that there would be dignity and beauty in worship uncontaminated by Ritualistic errors and Popish ceremonial. Still maintaining neutrality in regard to mere denominational differences, he desired that the church should be common ground for Churchmen and Dissenters, both the pulpit and the communion being open to all who loved the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and in truth.

Mr. Hall was loudly cheered throughout and at the conclusion of his address.

The choir and the congregation then sang a hymn, after which, a very interesting feature in the proceedings ensued. Some time ago the pastor expressed a desire to see 100 purses of 5*l.* each laid on the foundation-stone. He now announced that instead of 100 there were 221 persons anxious to place purses containing that amount on the stone. The donors of these "purses" were asked to ascend the platform in pairs, one from the right hand and one from the left, and considerable interest was manifested in this part of the proceedings, particularly when the donor chanced to be so diminutive as to necessitate being held up in the arms to place the gift on the stone. These gifts were followed by the pastor laying on the stone a cheque for 6,000*l.*, the total amount of sums handed to him for this special purpose; and he incidentally mentioned that that amount included a donation of 25 guineas from Sir Francis Lycett, 500*l.* from Mr. Morley, and 400*l.* from Sir Titus Salt. The entire sum laid upon the stone amounted to 7,150*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* At the close of the offerings, the people sang, "Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah," and the proceedings of laying the stone were brought to a close by the singing of Hickson's adaptation of the National Anthem, and the pronouncing the benediction by Mr. Hall. The proceedings at the laying of the foundation-stone terminated about five o'clock, when an adjournment was made to the Surrey Chapel, at which there was held a *conversazione*, which filled up the interval until the time for holding the public meeting. The large schoolroom library and adjacent departments, as well as a large marquee in the chapel-yard were filled to overflowing, the ladies of the church and congregation providing the materials for the repast, which were of the best kind and abundant in quantity.

At half-past seven o'clock the public meeting was held in the chapel, the pulpit and platform of which was gorgeously decorated with flowers. In the absence of Lord Shaftesbury, who was detained at the House of Lords by the debate on the Public Worship Facilities Bill, Sir George Hodgkinson took the chair, and was supported by many of the ministers and friends already mentioned, as well as by Dr. Parker, of the City Temple; Rev. Joseph Maxwell; Mr. Chatham, of Manchester; H. Hadland, Esq. The Jubilee Singers had been expected, but it was announced that several were too fatigued to attend, and two solos by Miss Maggie Porter, one of their number, were accepted as a sign of their goodwill. The Chairman alluded to his personal indebtedness to the pastor ever since paying a casual visit to the St. James's Hall services, and expressed his sense of the value of the work carried on in Surrey Chapel. Speeches full of congratulation at the successful progress of the cause, of personal thanks to Mr. Hall, and of hope for the future, were afterwards delivered by the Rev. Mr. Penrose, Mr. Alfred Rooker, of Plymouth; Mr. Cheetham, of Manchester; the Revs. Mr. Jones, Dr. Leask, Samuel Minton, Dr. Parker, and Arthur Hall, Mr. Paul (Architect), Mr. Hadland, Rev. Mr. Maxwell, and Rev. Henry Grainger. The meeting was in every way a pleasant and successful one, a collection being taken at the close for the building fund.

From some published particulars of the building we gather that the new place of worship will have a frontage to the Westminster Bridge-road, and Kennington-road, that it will be crowned by a tower and spire 220 feet high, and that the style will combine the long familiar octagon with the customary treatment of an English Gothic church. At the same time, the committee imposed the condition that the structure should be eminently fitted for Congregational worship and oral instruction; and the number of sittings required made it necessary to introduce galleries. There will also be a ventilation turret. The school building will comprise a schoolroom or lecture-hall, with galleries; the whole capable of seating 800 persons. The style throughout is pure "second pointed" English gothic. Stone is contemplated for the whole of the exterior. The heating and ventilating of the whole of the premises will be executed by Messrs. Haden, of London and Trowbridge. At present only the foundations of the buildings have been executed, Mr. W. Higgs, of Lambeth, being the contractor. Should no hindrance arise, the buildings will be completed in the autumn of 1875.

The Rev. Halley Stewart has resigned his ministry at the Croft Chapel, Hastings, after a pastorate of ten years; and has accepted the unanimous call to the pastorate of the Caledonian-road Chapel, Islington, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. E. Davies. Mr. Stewart will commence his ministry in his new sphere of labour on Sunday, July 6.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, HALSTEAD, ESSEX.—The Rev. Samuel Parkinson, late of Croydon, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation from this church, and will enter upon his new sphere of labour on the first Sunday of July next. This church was erected a few years since, at a cost of 5,000*l.*, and on the acceptance of the invitation by Mr. Parkinson it was resolved by the congregation to build a new parsonage, at an estimated cost of 700*l.*

CHILDREN'S SERVICES.—A meeting of the members and friends of the Children's Special Service Mission was held in the Conference Hall, Mildmay-park, on the 25th June, when addresses on the subject of "Evangelistic work amongst children and young people," were given by the Revs. George Savage, M.A., of St. John's, Bexley, H. G. Thwaites, Vicar of St. Mark's, Birmingham, Spencer J. Compton, M.A., Vicar of Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, S. D. Campbell Douglas, B.A., Vicar of All Saints, Derby, W. H. Jellie, of Gosport, and other friends.

WALWORTH.—The eighty-third anniversary of York-street Chapel, Walworth, was celebrated on Thursday last. A tea-meeting was first held in the Clayton Memorial Schools, and a public meeting afterwards in the chapel. At the latter the chair was occupied by Mr. W. McArthur, M.P., among those present being the Rev. P. Turquand (pastor of the chapel), and the Rev. W. Tozer, Rev. Job Marchant, Rev. J. M'C. Hussey, Rev. Alexander Hannay, Rev. De Kewer Williams, Rev. Johnson Barker, LL.B., Rev. J. Tiddy, and Rev. G. M. Murphy. During the proceedings it was stated that the chapel was to be modernised and improved, at an expense of from 1,200*l.* to 1,300*l.*, and help towards the alterations was earnestly solicited. The speaking was thoughtful, earnest, and impressive.

SUTTON VALENCE.—Recognition services in connection with the settlement of the Rev. Henry W. Burgoyne at Sutton Valence, Kent, were held on Wednesday and Sunday, the 11th and 15th ult. The Revs. Professor Newth, M.A., of New College, J. Radford Thomson, M.A., of Tunbridge Wells, D. G. Watt, M.A., of Maidstone, G. Burgoyne, of Stanwell, and J. Birdseye, of Cranbrook, took part in the Wednesday afternoon service, and the Revs. Professor Newth, D. G. Watt, and J. Hutchin, of Lenham, in that of the evening. Between the services nearly 250 persons took tea in the school-room. On Sunday evening the sermon to the people was preached by the Rev. Samuel Eastman, late of Windsor. Mr. Eastman also preached in the morning.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. JOHN PILLANS.—On Tuesday evening, June 24, a meeting of the friends of Camberwell Green Congregational Church was held, under the presidency of G. Whitley, Esq., to present a purse containing 590*l.* to the Rev. John Pillans, the retiring pastor, prior to his departure for Madagascar, on a special mission for the London Missionary Society. The *South London Press*, in reporting the proceedings, says:—"A few words concerning Mr. Pillans may not be uninteresting. During the whole of the period that he has had charge of the church at Camberwell Green no one has ever breathed a single syllable against the perfect nobility of his life, or pointed to a single flaw or even speck on the stainless purity of his character. His preaching was sometimes roughly criticised, and, indeed, he made no claim to be considered a popular preacher, aiming at far higher ends; but the man himself was above suspicion, a sterling friend, a loving teacher, a patient worker, an unselfish helper, a self-denying, large-hearted Christian, who in the very highest sense of the word has borne, during all the years he has been amongst us in South London, 'the grand old name of gentleman.' It will, indeed, be long before Camberwell ceases to miss the deeply-lined and thoughtful face of the minister of Camberwell Green Chapel, and longer still before the void caused by his absence in the hearts of numbers who hold him dear can be filled."

ISLINGTON CHAPEL.—The Rev. Dr. Geikie, who for the last six years has held the pastorate of Islington Chapel, from which he has now retired through failing health, preached his farewell sermons on Sunday week. On the following evening a numerous tea-meeting took place in the spacious schoolroom connected with the chapel. The Rev. Mark Wilks presided, and testified to the high esteem in which he held Dr. Geikie, for his intellectual powers, and for his fidelity in the utterance of his convictions. Mr. Upwards, on behalf of the church and congregation, presented Dr. Geikie with a purse containing 33*l.*, as a testimonial of the respect which was universally entertained for him by those who had enjoyed the benefits of his ministry. Mr. Barltrop next presented a handsome timepiece, with the inscription:—"A token of affection presented to the Rev. Dr. Geikie, by the scholars, teachers, and officers of the Islington Chapel Sunday-school, June 23, 1873," and spoke of the oneness of feeling which characterised teachers and scholars upon the subject. Mr. Tabrum said he was a member of the Church of England, but he wished to express his appreciation of the value of Dr. Geikie's labours in connection with various local charities and institutions. Messrs. Groom, Cooper, and Moore, members of the congregation, joined their testimony as to the regret with which Dr. Geikie's decision had been received. Dr. Geikie, in returning thanks, expressed his satisfaction that although on his first arrival he had to struggle with divisions, he left them a united church and congregation. Various votes of thanks brought the proceedings to a close.

NEW INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, ABBEY-HILL, KENILWORTH.—This chapel was opened for Divine worship on Monday afternoon, June 9. The Rev. J. W. Kindie, of Coventry, gave out the hymns. The Rev. H. Cross, of Coventry, read passages of Scripture, and offered prayer. The Rev. Dr. Raleigh, of London, preached to a crowded congregation, and the Rev. H. B. Doherty, of Kenilworth, concluded the service by prayer. A large number of neighbouring ministers, Alderman W. H. Hill, Mayor of Coventry, and Alderman H. Manton, of Birmingham, were present. Tea was provided in the school adjoining the old chapel for friends not residing in Kenilworth. In the evening a public meeting was held, Alderman Manton in the chair. After a few observations by the chairman, and prayer offered by the Rev. W. Froggatt, the treasurer, Mr. T. Hennell, made a statement from which it appeared that the entire cost of the building would be about 1,700*l.*, towards which 1,080*l.* had been raised previous to the opening of the chapel, and the Chapel Building Society had promised a loan of 200*l.* without interest for five years. His statement was followed by a few words of commendation from the Rev. J. Button, minister of the chapel, on the zeal and perseverance of the lady collectors of weekly subscriptions. He also stated that 200*l.* and upwards had been given by their treasurer. After this suitable speeches were delivered by the Revs. F. Stephens, J. S. James, W. S. Callaway, G. Storrow, H. Cross, F. S. Attenborough, and J. Whewell. The friends connected with the chapel have been greatly encouraged by the cordial sympathy and help they have found on every side—and not least in Kenilworth itself, among those not of their own denomination; and they hope by their own perseverance and the sympathy of others, ere long to place their new place of worship free from debt. The sum of 32*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* was received at the opening.

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—At the summer session of the above union held at Loughborough, on June 17, 1873, under the presidency of the Rev. T. Mays, the following resolutions were adopted:—

1.—That this union desires to record its high appreciation of the valuable services so long rendered by E. Miall, Esq., M.P., in the cause of religious equality, and particularly so by the speech he addressed to the House of Commons, when he recently submitted his motion for disestablishment, which speech was not in any way adequately answered by any of the supporters of Church Establishments. This union regrets that a majority of the House of Commons succeeded in stifling discussion on that occasion, and infers therefrom that the advocates of establishments were afraid of the consequences that might have resulted from a free and exhaustive debate; but the union rejoices to know that the motion receives quite as much Parliamentary support as has hitherto been accorded to it, and can only regard the tactics of its opponents as calling for that renewed and persistent effort which shall so strengthen public opinion that it shall ultimately, and, indeed, speedily demand the abandonment of a system which this union believes to be injurious to the best interests of the nation, and subversive of the just rights of the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Supreme Head of His Church.

2.—That in the opinion of this union the Elementary Education Act of 1870 fosters sectarian purposes, promotes parochial strife and religious discord, and fails to secure the advantages which a thoroughly national system of education would afford. The union greatly deprecates that the amendments recently proposed by Mr. Forster in the House of Commons fail to remedy these evils, whilst they will certainly introduce other evils that do not at present exist; and this union call upon the Government to substitute for the amendments proposed by Mr. Forster such a bill as shall provide for the country a system of elementary education that shall be at once just, equal, and national.

3.—That in the judgment of this union it is desirable that the Endowed Schools Commission should be renewed, but that additional securities be provided, that the vast endowments of the grammar schools of the kingdom shall be so appropriated as to secure the general interests of education without regard to sect or party, and that the policy of the commissioners in pro-

moting Church ascendancy by appointing an overwhelming majority of governors who are members of the Established Church should be discontinued.

THE GENERAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.—The business of the session of the 104th anniversary of the General Baptist Association commenced on Tuesday morning in Ebenezer Chapel, Burnley; the Rev. Samuel Cox, president, in the chair. There were over 300 members and delegates present from all parts of the country. The president's inaugural address was on Inductive Theology. The Rev. J. Clifford, M.A., was unanimously elected vice-president, and the Rev. John Fletcher assistant secretary. The secretary reported an increase of 319 members in the year. Twelve new chapels and eight new schools had been built. On Thursday the business having precedence was in reference to Chilwell College. Dr. Underwood, the president of the College, had sent in his resignation, which was accepted, and the Rev. T. Goadby, Derby, was appointed to succeed him. The Rev. S. Cox, Nottingham, was appointed secretary of the college. The Rev. W. R. Stevenson, M.A., Nottingham, classical tutor, had also given notice to resign, but the association pressed him to retain his office. Mr. Stevenson deferred giving a final answer. Dr. Clifford brought up a report of the Committee on Public Questions, and proposed the following resolutions, which were *seriatim* carried:—"That this association has great pleasure in expressing its deep sense of the signal service rendered to the cause of religious equality by Mr. E. Miall, M.P., by his speech in the House of Commons in favour of disestablishment on the 16th of May, and notes with satisfaction that no real reply to his convincing statement was even attempted. That the number of votes for the motion would be about as many as for the similar motion in 1871, had there been no resort to discreditable tactics for the purpose of stifling discussion. That these proceedings show clearly that no pains must be spared to strengthen public opinion, which shall demand the removal of a system conscientiously believed by this association to be injurious to the best welfare of the nation, and derogatory to the honour and spiritual supremacy of Our Lord Jesus Christ. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Mr. Miall. That, in the opinion of this association, the Education Act is being largely administered for sectarian purposes, especially by the operation of the twenty-fifth clause, which ought to be immediately repealed in the interest of religious equality and a truly national system of education. The association further expresses its intense disappointment in the amendment offered by Her Majesty's Government, since the proposal to transfer to boards of guardians the power given to school boards, thereby increasing the offence against religious equality by rendering compulsory what was before optional, besides being objectionable, as a religious tax is also to be opposed, because of its degrading effect on the character of the recipients of such parochial aid. That, in the opinion of this association, the vast endowments of the old grammar-schools of this country, amounting at least to half a million per annum, ought to be appropriated to the general interests of education, irrespective of any sect or party; but the association observes with regret and indignation that the policy of the Endowed Schools Commissioners appears to be directed chiefly to the perpetuation of State Church ascendancy. In no fewer than 50 out of 85 schools all the governors are Episcopalians, while of the 441 co-optative governors 385 are members of the Established Church—notwithstanding the express provisions of the Act of Parliament by which the endowed schools are recognised as being the property of the nation. That this association records its sense of disappointment at the manner in which the just claims of Nonconformists have been treated by the present Government, and regrets to have to express its loss of confidence in the Government in relation to questions affecting religious equality. This association also urges its friends to be faithful to their principles at the next general election." A resolution was also passed in favour of international arbitration, and another for the entire closing of public-houses on Sunday. After some routine business the conference adjourned at six o'clock.

Correspondence.

THE BATH ELECTION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—As I find the course I felt it right to take at Bath relative to the candidature of Mr. Cox has been a good deal commented upon—I venture through your valuable paper to give the reasons why I felt it right to support Mr. Hayter—

1. There was no mistake as to Mr. Hayter being the choice of the Liberal party, and though I believed then and believe still that a man of more pronounced and advanced Liberal opinions would have done more to inspire earnestness in our ranks, and to secure a victory for our cause—yet having agreed to accept and support Mr. Hayter, I think it would have been bad policy and worse principle to have deserted him, even in favour of a gentleman with whom politically, so far as I heard his opinions, I am much more nearly allied.

2. And now let me say a word to my Nonconformist and Permissive Bill friends as to our future political action. I am quite aware that there may be times when the maintenance of certain principles must override all party considerations, and I think that if the present

Government persist in their present retrograde educational policy, we shall be bound as a rule to refuse our support to candidates supporting that policy. Our duty is plain—namely, to see that the education of the youth of this country is not handed over to the priests of the Catholic and State Church party, and that if we are to pay for a national system of education it shall be national, in reality as well as in name.

And further I think it will be the duty of all temperance reformers to see that the future legislation of this country shall not be in favour of the Publicans as against the public. The rate at which we may progress towards a "free church in a free country," or towards more popular control over the drink traffic, must be left to the public sentiment and circumstances of the times. But it ought to be distinctly understood by the Government and the Liberal party that in future any candidate who supports the retrograde policy of the Government on the education question will not receive Nonconformist support, and any candidate that proposes to facilitate the drink traffic will meet with the opposition of all who value sobriety and good order. At the same time, let me also say that if any breach is to take place between Nonconformists and the Liberal party, let it be done intelligently and in a manly way. Do not let us commit the folly of sending men at the last moment merely to divide and weaken our party, rather let us seek by fair argument and honest influence to select candidates that fairly represent the average progressive policy of the Liberal party, and insist on the adoption of such candidates rather than of mere supporters of the Government. We shall thus, I believe, be able to secure a fair representation of our views, and the ultimate and not distant triumph of our principles.

I should like also to bear my humble testimony to the noble conduct of the present Government as a whole, and my desire that every means should be exhausted before breaking with men who have earned the respect and gratitude of all honest reformers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HANDEL COSSHAM.

Holly Lodge, St. George's, near Bristol,
June 30, 1873.

CONGREGATIONALISM IN OUR LARGE TOWNS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I am much obliged to Mr. Quail for bringing before the public the spread of Congregationalism in our large towns and populous districts, and doubly thankful to you for your admirable and painstaking article in answer to his letter. Your correspondent is not perhaps aware that the Conservative press is accustomed to make from time to time charges against the Free Churches of England which are very plausible, but which when fairly faced will not bear a moment's examination. Mr. Quail does not seem to know that the interiors of all our large towns are diminishing in population year by year, and when we hear of free churches being sold and removed into the outskirts it is because they are following the population which is ever flowing from the centre to the suburbs.

Perhaps Mr. Quail does not know that his own town of Liverpool has in the interior decreased nearly 40,000 during the last twenty years. The divisions of Howard-street, Dale-street, St. George's, and St. Thomas, decreased from 1851 to 1861, 13,622; and from 1861 to 1871, 24,298! Here are the populations according to the census tables:—

	1851.	1861.	1873.
Howard-street . . .	27,942	24,816	18,958
Dale-street . . .	31,763	20,078	23,918
St. George's . . .	19,823	16,827	9,425
St. Thomas . . .	33,957	29,142	23,269
	113,485	99,863	75,565

All the talk about the Free Churchmen leaving the poor and destitute is stuff and nonsense, and will not bear a moment's careful examination. This is the case, this diminution of population, in the centres of nearly all our towns, and the Conservatives, ignoring the fact, make a great fuss whenever a church and congregation are wise enough to sell their church and site and build one or two churches in the rapidly increasing neighbourhoods. The lesson which we Free Churchmen have yet to learn is this, that we must do our utmost to keep pace with the population in new and rapidly increasing districts. It is really pitiable to see in some cases the efforts put forth by earnest and clever ministers to keep a congregation together when all the people around them are leaving for the suburbs, and their church is left like a ship on dry ground to which no tide will ever return. The wisest plan is to sell their site, for which they can almost always get a large sum, and build in the outskirts. With respect to the charges made by the Conservative Press, and the stump defamers who are going through the country, it would be well if our brethren would take the advice so judiciously and wisely given by you in a late leading article. We are sadly too thin-skinned, and want more manliness and courage. We forget we are Englishmen and Christians. We have the most perfect right to call our sanctuaries what we like, and build them in whatever style of architecture we choose. If we met the charges—I cannot call them arguments—if we met the charges of our enemies with fearlessness and boldness, and do not quail, we shall find that every one of them will vanish like mist before

the sun. Take away the abuse with which the charges are thickly strewed, and I will guarantee that there is not one of them that cannot be fairly and honestly met and answered.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
J. A. CLAPHAM.

Bradford, June 30, 1873.

THE BIBLE IN ITALIAN.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Permit me to solicit, through your columns, donations to enable the Italian Bible Society to publish a Family Bible in parts. The members of the society are from amongst the poorest, and are unable to do this without assistance. The object is to reach the masses of the Italian people quickly, before they become avowedly infidel. Colportage is too expensive to be extensively used, and there is little disposition to purchase the ordinary copies. We hope an attractive and cheap volume, brought out in parts, will be taken by all booksellers, and being thus easy of purchase by the people, will obtain an extensive and quick sale. This will involve a considerable outlay and loss, but will be a gain upon any other system.

I have the honour to be, Sir, very faithfully,
E. GARDNER FISHBOURNE,
President of the Italian Bible Society.

"ONE DAY'S PURE AIR."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—By an appeal through the press last year, assisted by the teachers in the use of collecting cards, upwards of 900 children of the Field-lane Ragged-schools had a day's enjoyment in the lovely green fields of Finchley.

The homes of these poor children are in the densely crowded courts and alleys in the heart of this vast metropolis, where they are compelled to breathe an unwholesome atmosphere, and are a constant prey to fever and other distressing diseases. The committee therefore feel constrained again to appeal to the benevolence of those friends who feel an interest in such children for the means whereby they may realise the enjoyment of another day's pure country air.

For this purpose contributions will be thankfully received by the bankers, Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co., Lombard-street; Ransom and Co., Pall Mall East; Geo. Moore, Esq., Bow Churchyard, and by

Your very obedient servant,
SAMUEL TAWELL.

17, Berners-street, W.

Colleges and Schools.

NEW COLLEGE, ST. JOHN'S WOOD.

The usual annual meeting previous to the summer recess took place on Friday evening last, and any friends who happened then to travel on the Metropolitan Railway, with its darkness, noise, and sulphurous smells, must have been glad enough to emerge into the clear air and sunshine and quiet at St. John's Wood. In the entrance-hall of New College and about the broad corridors professors and students were waiting the arrival of friends and visitors, or gliding about from the tea-room to the library and offices chatting with those already arrived. Very cordial greetings were exchanged over the cheering cup—"drunk standing." There was only time for a peep into the museum upstairs, before the bell announced that the hour for the meeting had come. A low platform had been erected at the further end of the room, and the row of chairs set there were soon filled—the centre one by the venerable Dr. Binney, in his academic gown, the one to his right by the gentleman who was to deliver the address to the students—the Rev. William Arthur—and that on his left by the Principal, the Rev. Samuel Newth, while the others were occupied by the Rev. Dr. Stoughton, Professor Jenner, Dr. Kennedy, the Rev. R. A. Redford, and other distinguished gentlemen. The library was now well filled not only with dead books, but with living earnest men and women all intent to listen to what should be spoken. When all were seated, the venerable chairman rose, and proceeded to give out the hymn, "Jesus, the word of mercy give," which was heartily sung by the assembly standing. The Rev. Thos. Hine then, at the invitation of the chairman, pours forth an earnest prayer for the Divine blessing on the work of the college, its professors and students, and at its close Mr. Hugh Campbell, one of the senior students, is called upon to read an essay on "Athanasius." The subject may not at first seem an interesting, but it was certainly not an inappropriate one, as it recounted the heroic struggles and eventful incidents in the life of that great champion of orthodoxy, and his fearless adherence to his convictions. It was an inspiring lesson to those whose life is to be devoted to the warfare of truth against error, and from the clear, effective manner in which it was delivered was not at all wearisome to the audience, who cordially applauded at the close. The Rev. W. Farrer, the courteous secretary, now rises to read the twenty-third annual report, of which the following is a full abstract:—

The arrangements for instruction reported last year have been found to work well, and the interest of the classes has been sustained. The session was opened on Tuesday, Oct. 1st, with a devotional service, and

address by the Principal. A *soirée* was held on Oct. 4th, and an introductory lecture given by the Rev. Dr. Stoughton. The address and lecture have since been printed for the council, and circulated among the subscribers and friends of the college.

The number of theological students for the session was forty-four, of whom twelve were newly received. There were also seven lay students, making the total on the books fifty-one.

One student matriculated in the University of London in June, 1872. Two passed the first B.A. examination—one of them, Mr. J. W. Richards, with honours in English and the prize in French. Two others, Mr. Alfred J. Bamford and Mr. Henry Wells, obtained the B.A. degree—the former with honours in animal physiology.

The scholarships obtained in the course of the year were—Pye-Smith Scholarship, by Mr. F. W. Aveling, M.A.; Dr. Williams's Divinity Scholarship, F. W. Aveling, M.A., and Hugh Campbell, M.A.; J. Yockney Scholarship, W. F. Adeney, M.A.; H. F. Burder Scholarship, John Preston; Bennet-King Scholarship, by a gentleman whose name was not mentioned.

The settlements in the ministry, &c., were thirteen, viz., Mr. W. F. Adeney, M.A., Acton; Henry Barron, Portsmouth; W. E. Collier; J. F. Lepine, Hadleigh; W. H. Burgoyne, Sutton Valence; John Preston, Great Harwood, Lancashire; G. B. Stottworthy, Wells, Norfolk; John Riordan, ordained for missionary service in Madagascar; Thos. Insell, for Mirzapore; C. D. Helm, for Inyati, South Africa; N. A. Roach, for Canton, China; S. J. Helm, invited by an Independent church in South Africa; H. Campbell, M.A., by a church in Scotland (but had not yet accepted the invitation). These engagements, with those recorded in the weekly "Preaching List," afford gratifying proof of the acceptance of the students among the churches.

The work at the preaching and mission stations continues to be carried on with energy, and with an encouraging measure of success. The want of suitable accommodation at Barnes Green, near Billingshurst, is severely felt. A site has been found for a small chapel, to seat about 120. The cost will be very moderate; a large part of it is already collected, or promised, and it is hoped that the building will soon be erected, and opened free of debt. The chapel at Brockley has been properly fitted and repaired.

The experience of every year affords fresh proof of the value, evangelistic and educational, of these preaching stations. To encourage their continuance and extension, Joshua Wilson, Esq., of Tunbridge Wells, has put in trust 200*l.* Five per Cent. Debenture Stock of the East London Waterworks Company, the interest to be applied in aid of such stations connected with the college, as shall from time to time be recommended by the professors.

The Halley Testamental Fund (more than 8100*l.*) was completed and presented on the 29th of October.

Besides the special contribution of the college to this fund, there have been other extraordinary expenses in the course of the year—e.g., the painting and repairing of the Principal's house at a cost of about 200*l.* On the other hand, there has been more than the average loss of subscribers from death or change of circumstances, hardly counterbalanced by new and increased subscriptions. Congregational collections have not yielded so much as last year; some, however, are only postponed. Legacies received: W. Hamlet, Esq., Holloway, 100*l.*, less duty; Jas. Taylor, Esq., Stoke Newington (after death of Mrs. Taylor), 500*l.* free of duty. Information has also been received of another legacy (600*l.*) from the late Thos. White, Esq., of Peterborough, to be paid in the autumn. At present the council are obliged for the most part to spend legacies received, instead of funding them. This is a very unwelcome necessity; and the council earnestly entreat the friends of the college, especially the ministers educated there, to use their influence in order to obtain for it extended support. Many former students are doing what they can; others might do something if they would but try. Is it too much to ask that every New College student now in the ministry at home will endeavour to make a collection for the college in the course of next year? The treasurer has kindly given a special contribution of 100*l.* in place of his usual subscription of 50*l.* for the year; 50*l.* have been received from Berman's trustees; and other donations from several friends.

Negotiations with the committee of Spring-hill College, for a combined working of the two institutions without amalgamation, were reported as in progress at the last anniversary. The council regret that they have not been able to see their way to such an arrangement as would be satisfactory to both parties; but the intercourse into which they have been brought by the attempt to find such an arrangement will lead them to cherish a livelier interest in the prosperity of the sister institution at Birmingham.

The council had next to consider what provision should be made for the future instruction of the classes. Our college system being in a transition state, too great fixity of arrangement is undesirable; moreover, the temporary arrangements for the past session have been found to work well. The engagements in the arts classes have been renewed for another year; a third class being added, or rather restored, in logic and philosophy. Separate chairs have been established for Biblical and historical and for systematic theology. The Rev. Dr. Stoughton takes the former, the Rev. R. A. Redford, M.A., LL.B., the latter, each for two years; and for the same term the Rev. Dr. Kennedy will continue his services in the chair of apologetics. The exercises of the sermon class for the next session will still be directed by the Rev. Thomas Binney.

It is with unfeigned satisfaction that the council report these arrangements for the future. They feel that there is a direct advantage to the students with reference to the great end of all their studies here, in being thus brought into close and frequent contact with so many honoured brethren actually engaged in the work of the ministry, each taking but one branch of scientific inquiry to which he has given special attention. In no other way, perhaps, could so large an amount of intellectual ability and of healthy spiritual influence be brought to bear upon those who are preparing for ministerial labour. All this, and more than this, is needed. The spiritual wants of our age are wide, and ever widening; deep, and seeming to grow deeper still; urgent, and increasing in urgency from year to year. Our colleges have their special work to do towards meet-

ing these wants; how they may be made to do that work most effectually? Experience and inquiry may show further changes and combinations to be necessary or desirable; but no change and no combination which human hands can effect will avail anything without the sympathy of the churches and the blessing of God. When the colleges are remembered—earnestly, affectionately, constantly remembered in the prayers of all our churches—a remembrance which, it may be feared, is too often the exception, not the rule, the blessing will come, and the work of the colleges will be done as it has never been done before. There will be the right men, and the right training, and the right result—a rich harvest of spiritual good to the church and the world, and of glory to the God of our salvation.

The financial statement shows the receipts from all sources to have been 4,595*l.*, and the expenditure 4,758*l.*, leaving a balance due to the treasurer of 163*l.*

The Principal now advances to make a statement respecting the course of instruction pursued during the past year, and observes that the reports from the several professors are favourable as regards the general conduct of the students, though he added there were one or two points on which a little private exhortation was needed, and which, he had no doubt would, as it had always been, be received cordially. As president, he would testify his thanks to God for the way in which they had been blessed in the past, and his belief that His blessing would still abide with them.

The Chairman said it was necessary as there were matters of business that certain resolutions should be proposed and carried, after which he would vacate the chair, which would then be occupied by the Rev. William Arthur, whom they all congratulated themselves on seeing amongst them, and who would deliver the prizes to the successful students. They had time for a few speeches, but they must be brief ones.

The first resolution, adopting the report, and ordering it to be printed and circulated, was moved by the Rev. Dr. Parker in a short but humorous speech. It was clear from the papers that had been read that that institution had not been leading an idle life, and the work seemed to have been done in such a manner as to leave the professors and students in good health which one must have observed with satisfaction. He must also congratulate them on the fact that each of the students leaving the college had found pastoral settlements. Should he be considered heterodox if he said that he wished that all the brethren leaving there should be ordained on their leaving and not wait until they were settled over a church. He believed that such an arrangement would be attended with very great advantages. There was no evidence on the point, but he believed it was a fact that those gentlemen who had given part of their time to the instruction of the students had not preached less efficiently, but that in working for the students they had been working for their own people, and he was glad that ministers could find time to attend to that work, as he believed they were benefiting themselves whilst benefiting others. It had been said that preachers, like poets, were born and not made; but he was told that the same remark might be applied to "an ass and a colt the foal of an ass"—(laughter)—which, however, was none the worse for having the reins put upon it. It was in some senses true that a preacher was born and not made, but he must be born again; and he believed that any one who passed through the agonies of the course of study there would be the better for it. They honoured the names of many great men in the past who had not enjoyed the advantages of such instruction, but they must not make rare cases the rule, but the exceptions which proved the rule. He believed, therefore, that all such institutions had a great work to do, and deserved the support of all who desired a faithful ministry.

The Rev. Dr. Raleigh seconded the resolution, saying he had been asked to do so as he could be depended upon to set a proper example of brevity. He had, therefore, put from him the thoughts which had occurred to him, and would only second the resolution and sit down.

The Secretary then read the names of the members of council and officers for the ensuing year. The second resolution, proposing a vote of thanks to the treasurer and officers, was moved by the Rev. R. D. Wilson, of Craven Chapel, who spoke from the body of the room, and remarked that the novel appearance of the platform, occupied by those who represented great intellectual wisdom and power, reminded him of what he once saw in an old castle he visited, where there was what was called the harnessing block. The soldier going forth to the fight was there fitted with his armour, and charged to fight valiantly for the cause. And the students were there being filled with that intellectual strength and wisdom which might enable them to go forth and fight the battle of faith and truth. The resolution was seconded by the Rev. J. S. Moffat, a son of the well-known missionary, and himself lately returned from missionary work in Africa. He was affectionately invited on to the platform by the chairman, who in a playful manner touched his beard, saying, "We are glad to see this." Mr. Moffat, whose features resemble his father's, and are bronzed by the African heat, said he would not indulge in any sentimentality, though he might say a good deal of the past which occurred to him as he stood there again, but he would congratulate them on the large number of missionary students who were now going forth. When he went out to Africa he went alone, and it was very gratifying to see now no less than ten

men intending to devote themselves to foreign missionary work. It might be thought a large proportion, but he did not think so when he remembered that three-fourths of the human race are heathens. Coming back from Africa with an overpowering sense of the needs of the heathen, he looked with wonder at the superabundant means of grace at home. It seemed to him they had too many ministers here when he heard so much criticism on the preacher and his preaching, and he thought it would be better for them to go to the heathen. He would also suggest the appointment of a professor of missionary work, so that the missionary might receive some information and instruction before he went out, which would save much useless sprawling about. He hoped the fathers present would hammer the idea into people's heads. The Chairman said he had been struck with the number of those going forth as missionaries from the Western College, and he was going to Lancashire College, and hoped it would be the same there.

A third resolution of thanks to the auditors was proposed by the Rev. Josiah Miller, and seconded by the Rev. F. S. Turner, and carried unanimously, as were the preceding resolutions.

Dr. Binney said it was now his pleasing duty to vacate the chair and to introduce into it the Rev. William Arthur. This being done, the Principal said that the sum of three thousand pounds had been left by a lady and gentleman, the interest of which was to be spent in giving books as prizes. The first prize of twenty pounds had been awarded to Mr. Hugh Campbell, M.A., who was accordingly called forward and presented with a cheque for the amount by the chairman, and the following gentlemen also received prizes of 10*l.* each:—Messrs. Burgoyne, C. Helm, S. Helm, Insell, Preston, Stallworthy, Reordan, Roach. The elocution prizes given by Mr. S. Morley, M.P., for the best reader, were awarded to Mr. Daniel Amos and Mr. Woods, they being considered equal, and two other prizes of 3*l.* and 2*l.* obtained by Dr. Binney, were respectively given to Mr. Lyon and Mr. A. Flower. Dr. Binney's prize for English composition was divided between Messrs. Munro and Woods, and his prize for the best sermons written in the class-room was awarded, 3*l.* to Mr. Ebbs, and 2*l.* to Mr. Gardner. Certificates of honour were also awarded as follows:—

Second Theological Year.—Mr. Munro, 1; and Messrs. Edge, Gregory, Tillotson, 2. First Theological Year.—Messrs. Clark, Kluht, Wells, 1, and Messrs. Gardner and Williper 2. Second Literary Year.—Mr. Kelly, 1. Bennett-King Scholarship.—Messrs. Wright and Hytch, 1; Mr. Lyon, 2. First Literary Year.—Mr. Strachan, 1; Mr. Holmes, 2. Lay Students.—Mr. Kennedy, 1 in Classics and German, 2 in English. Mr. John Rylands, of Manchester, also sent copies of the Scriptures arranged in paragraphs and with other special features, and handsomely bound for presentation to those students leaving the college. They were accordingly presented by Mr. Arthur, with appropriately earnest remarks, after which he delivered a very earnest extempore address to the students, whom he divided into two classes, those whose time of preparation had passed, and those whose preparation was still in progress. There might be two trains of thought in their minds; some saying, "I wish I had another year or two," and others, "I wish my time was ended." Both feelings had a right side as well as a wrong one. With regard to those who had time before them, if they had a real desire for action now in their time of preparation, they might find opportunity of laying themselves out to great advantage, and he believed that one great means of preparing for the work was by working now and doing what they could to bring sinners to Christ. In education, nothing had been more neglected than the power of applying knowledge. Those whose time had ended had now before God and men to take up great responsibilities. He would say to them, Make the preparation of to-day the preparation for to-morrow. The labour of youth, the preparation for the days when mental and physical activity will fail. Try to lay up stores for those years, so that the work of youth may pay interest in that time. He would say to each one going forth, "Sit down and count the cost thoroughly." Look at your intellectual, moral, and temporal welfare. Look at the world to come as well as at the present, and if they believed they could do more good in any other way than in the Christian ministry, let them go and do it. Those were matters which the more thoroughly they were looked into the more likely they would be to give results. If they thought their life could be laid out better than in the service of Christ, let them go and do it, for he held that the best thing for a man to do was what God called him to do. If they believed that a man's life could be best spent in the preaching of the Gospel, let them go and do it. When they looked back on the past they could easily see what had been best for the world, and brought most honour to God. If their thoughts went back to the River Nile and its early history, the name that was thought the most of was the name of the man that esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt. Looking back through all the ages they would see that just in proportion as the human had become connected with Christ, it had been powerful for good. Another power they heard of was nature, and another civilisation. What had nature alone done for man in those parts where it was most favourable to him? Were they not miserable savages? And what had civilisation alone done for man? Take the world with Christ and the world

without Christ, and which was best off? There were those who, having heard the name of Christ, set up His religion in an unknown tongue, and took Christ's book out of the sight of the people, and there were those to whom Christ was an every day teacher in His own word, to whom He was all in all, and which of the two classes was better off? Our own country might be divided into two families, one where Christ was everything, and one where Christ was not sought after, and in which were the children best trained and the happiest, and from which went those who served their generation according to the will of God? They were asked for physical tests of moral truths, and such might be found in the lives of those who were devoted to Christ and whose history was written in their outer forms. Some there present were going forth to take charge of churches upon whom every year would write a history of prayer and faith, love and hope, the only record that was worth anything. They could do nothing better than to be a minister of Christ. It was said the question of the day was whether there was to be a theology of the future. But that was not the question, and the last man who should raise it was the positivist. Had they any record of men existing without a theology? When they existed without a theology they might exist without a government. Theology was going to stand and to be more deeply rooted than ever. Those who had the living power of the cross of Christ in their hearts could not but manifest that power, and it was a power that would live. The question was how could each one of them do their part in the great war of thought, that was going on, in comparison with which all other wars were nought. The greatest battle of the world was to be carried on in the field of thought, and when they won one mind to Christ, they brought a body and prepared a future power for good. Mr. Arthur proceeded in conclusion to give some practical counsels to the students entering on the ministry, and sat down cordially applauded. The Rev. Dr. Stoughton, in felicitous terms, proposed the thanks of the assembly to Mr. Arthur for his able address, and expressed his personal esteem for him through an intimate acquaintance of many years. The Rev. J. C. Harrison seconded the motion which was put to the meeting by Dr. Binney and unanimously carried. Mr. Arthur acknowledged the vote in feeling language, and the proceedings were concluded by the singing of the Doxology, and the benediction pronounced by Dr. Binney. It was announced that the next session would commence on Friday, September 26.

CHESHUNT COLLEGE.

The 105th anniversary of Cheshunt College took place on Thursday last. The weather was fine, and the attendance, considering the attractions to the religious public elsewhere, was, on the whole, very good. In the morning the Rev. J. G. Rogers, of Clapham, preached a sermon from Isaiah vi. 8—"Alas! I hear the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send? who shall go for us?" After a reference to the various visions chronicled in the Old Testament, the preacher enunciated the fact that God had always a message to send, and that when He has one He will find men to receive it. The words of the text, the preacher went on to observe, were addressed to ministers and to those who are preparing for that work, and also to Christian men in general, to make it a matter of prayer to God for a succession of godly teaching. We were asked to consider the character of the work God has to do, and the kind of men whom He employs to do it. As to the character of the age, it was a time of doubt. We were to study the age, not to ignore or attach exaggerated importance to it. The old Gospel was to be preached, but it was to be adapted to the age, as Paul did, and as Luther after him. Another characteristic of the age was its spirit of self-reliance; another was the craving for novelty; another was its thirst for sensationalism, its engrossment in itself, its scepticism, the luxury and wealth of the age, were also referred to. At the same time the preacher was quite ready to admit and do justice to its noble qualities. What, he asked secondly, were the qualifications of the men to be sent to such an age; some say philosophical power, others oratorical power; but the real requisite was soul power. That was the case; men were wanted with a Divine inspiration, to whom the things in which they dealt were living realities. It was true that the orator and the thinker had power, but nothing like the power of the living Christ. They must feel that they had a divine message to impart, unless they felt that they had no call to the ministry at all. A holy life was essential, and they must have power to impart strength and consolation.

After the sermon the company repaired to the marquee which had been erected in the adjoining ground, and where a cold collation was served up, under the presidency of Sir F. Buxton, M.P., who said he was glad to be there as a neighbour to show the estimation in which he held their work—which was not the work of any particular sect, but to train the students to preach the simple Gospel, and then to leave them to choose for themselves as to what particular section of the Christian Church they would belong. That, he maintained, was real unity, far better than the spurious external uniformity at one time attempted in this country. After this Mr. Beighton, the secretary, read his financial statement, which was in two parts—first the general account, and secondly the building

fund. As regards the first, the year commenced on July 1, 1872, with an adverse balance of 50*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* In March, 1873, owing to the increase of students accompanied by general advance of prices, it had increased to 550*l.* An appeal to the public had met with a hearty and generous response. Donations had reduced the debt to 40*l.* Besides, sixteen gentlemen had commenced as subscribers annually of ten guineas. In addition to these, three gentlemen had increased their subscriptions, besides new subscriptions had been received. The building fund, at the last audit, showed a deficiency of 2,100*l.* That had been decreased by contributions of 5*l.* and upwards to 1,738*l.* The trustees and committee felt it to be their duty publicly to express their obligations to their bankers, Messrs. Prescott, Grote, and Co., who have consented to renew their loan at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum to the 8th of April next. They had also the gratification of announcing generous offers by way of challenge for the extinction of the debt on or before the 8th of April next. A friend of the Rev. Dr. Allon, 105*l.*, W. Scott, Esq., 100*l.*, S. Smith, Esq., 100*l.*, W. Stobart, Esq., J.P., 100*l.*, if nine others will give 100*l.*, W. Joynson, Esq., per the Rev. J. Pulling, 100*l.*, W. R. Spicer, Esq., 100*l.* It was also stated that Mrs. Reynolds herself had appealed to ladies, on the plea that the work at Cheshunt had been begun by a lady, and hoped to raise 100*l.* in that way.

The Rev. Dr. M'Aulane pronounced a high eulogium on Cheshunt College. Some of the strongest men he had met with, spiritually and mentally, had come from thence. The Rev. Dr. Allon said their chief solicitude was as to the spiritual state of the college. On this head they had every confidence. Indeed, if he were to say anything against Dr. Reynolds no one would believe him. He pleaded earnestly for the extinction of the debt. He warmly thanked Mr. Rogers for his sermon, which was calculated to be very beneficial. He had done well in pointing their attention to the dangers around them, and in showing them how they could be avoided.

Mr. Rogers, in returning thanks, said it was not pleasant to preach before students. He felt as Dr. Hamilton did when he was told that all the students of a college had been to hear him preach. His reply was, "Well, I am mince meat by this time." He quite agreed with what Dr. M'Aulane had said as to the propriety of amalgamating colleges. As it was, he feared, they were dwindling away their strength. The next speaker was the Rev. Paxton Hood, who spoke of the conservative character of the college, and how he delighted, on such an occasion, to be able to join in the Church service. He spoke of Dr. Reynolds as a model president, and referred to the Rev. Benjamin Parsons—an old Cheshunt man—as the man who had most modified his life. He gave "The Students and Professors of Cheshunt College." In seconding the sentiment the Rev. Mr. Cuthbertson, of Bishop Stortford, while admitting Dr. Reynolds was a perfect model, such a one as Mr. Rogers would have desiderated of soul power, said they must not let his name and fame overshadow that of Professor Evans, whom he had personally known for many years. The aim of the college, he continued, should be to make preachers; he believed that aim was being accomplished there. He also pleaded strongly for a higher theological literature. In returning thanks, Professor Christie went on to show the need and importance of an educated ministry. The company then broke up. It should be added that at intervals Dr. Allon warmly appealed for increased subscriptions and donations to defray the debt on general management as well as the building fund, and with a certain amount of success, Mr. Rogers, for one, giving in 50*l.* from a friend. The company adjourned to the chapel, to witness the distribution of prizes by Sir T. F. Buxton. Professor Reynolds read the report, which was to the following effect:—The number of the students last year had much increased. Altogether thirty-eight had been attending the classes at the college. Of the seventeen new students one had been removed by death, two had temporarily retired in consequence of severe illness. Great comfort had been derived from the use of the new college buildings. Three students were to take their leave—one, Mr. Florance, had accepted a cordial invitation to Redland Chapel, Bristol; another, Mr. Edward P. Rice, was to join his father in the London Society's Mission at Bangalore; another, Mr. Thomas Rogers, was to sail that day for Madagascar. Other students were to terminate their course at Christmas, but there was a large number of applications for admission under the consideration of the committee. Mr. Ebenezer Reeves Palmer has just received most honourably the degree of M.A., in branch III., at the London University; and Professor Galloway has obtained during the session the degree of B.Sc. Special thanks were expressed for services conducted by the Rev. Dr. Binney, the Revs. Newman Hall, Baldwin Brown, Dr. Raleigh, Henry Simon, G. W. Conder, Gilbert M'All, Robert Henry, W. Cuthbertson, J. Stephenson, and F. Soden, who had conducted services in the college chapel or in one or other of the village stations attached; in all these the ordinary congregations had been larger. In addition, 120 churches had been supplied by the college; 467 volumes had been added to the library. In this much help had been given by the Rev. J. W. Walker, B.A. A window had been placed in the library by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spencer, of Jubulpore, in memory of the Rev. William Rogers, of India; and the portraits chosen

for it have been those of the Revs. Henry Martyn, Robert Moffat, and William Ellis. The tablets in the chapel, offered at the last anniversary by the J. Wake and Mr. M. Jones, had been admirably executed in the course of the year. Progress had been made in collecting funds for the erection of a chapel at Stanstead, near Ware. In conclusion, testimony was borne to the spiritual and intellectual state of the students. The following is a list of the prizes:—

Soper Theological Scholarship.—Mr. Richard Lovett. — University of London.—Mr. Ebenezer Reeves Palmer, B.A. has obtained the degree of Master of Arts in Branch III. Prize list.—First, Mr. Owen Charles Whitehouse, B.A., and Mr. William Ockelford; third, Mr. George Shaw Briggs; fourth, Mr. George Walker, B.A.; fifth, Mr. George Albert Brock; sixth, Mr. Joseph Martin.—Certificates of honour.—First, Mr. Henry Johnson; second, Mr. Joseph Johnson; third, Mr. Edwin J. Dukes; fourth, J. Hirst Hollowell; fifth, Stewart Johnson Reid; sixth, Andrew Dunn Turner.—Division of honourable mention.—First, Mr. Tozer; second, Menzies.—Elocution prizes, gifts of the proprietors of the *Christian World*.—Seniors, Mr. Edwin J. Dukes; Juniors, Mr. J. Hirst Hollowell and Mr. G. Shaw Briggs. A prize offered by the President for a special essay on "The Character of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the inferences derivable therefrom," has been competed for by five students, and has been awarded by the adjudicators to Mr. Ernest Radbourne.

After a few remarks from the Rev. Mr. Stewart, as to the merits of the essays he had been called upon to read—and a short speech from the chairman the meeting terminated with the usual vote of thanks and the benediction.

SPRING HILL COLLEGE.

The thirty-fifth anniversary meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Spring Hill College, Moseley, was held in the library of the college on Tuesday, the 24th inst. Mr. R. W. Dale presided, and there was a more than usually large attendance. The proceedings having been commenced with praise and prayer, the Chairman referred to some of the leading events of the year connected with the college, especially to the illness of Dr. Simon, who had been constrained to abstain from work for a considerable time, but who, there was reason to hope, would be completely restored to health by the time the vacation was over. During his absence, Dr. Halley, "one of the best, ablest, most learned, and wisest of men," had kindly undertaken to supply the vacant chair. There had been some negotiations with New College in reference to a more economical and effective employment of the resources of their colleges if there were some kind of confederation between them, but they had for the present fallen through. The Chairman however expressed a hope that at some future time the question might be renewed, and that in a larger form, so as to embrace the colleges of their denomination generally.

Mr. S. Edwards (in the absence of Mr. Keep, the treasurer, through illness) read the balance-sheet of the trustees, from which it appeared that the income for the past year, from all sources, was 2,115*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, and that a balance remained in the bank of 361*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*

The Rev. G. B. Johnson read the report of the committee, which stated that the session of 1872-73 opened with a college roll of eighteen students, and one absent student. The roll soon increased to twenty-four by the admission of five new students, but the departure during the year of those who had completed their studies left about the same number in the college as there were twelve months ago. After referring in detail to the students who had left for pastoral charges, &c., the report stated that the literary acquisitions by members of the college during the past year were as follow:—Mr. B. N. Fernie had passed the matriculation examination, Mr. J. H. Toms had passed the first B.A. examination, and Mr. J. Bullock, B.A., had passed the first Scripture examination, and had also obtained one of Dr. Williams's Divinity Scholarships, value 40*l.* per annum, tenable for two years. The committee reported, with much pleasure, a large accession to the annual prize fund. With regard to the college conference held in June last year, that report expressed regrets "that recent attempts to unite these institutions had done little beyond revealing the great and embarrassing problems which a too independent and too exclusively local action had occasioned." It was added,—relative to the negotiations with New College,

Anxious to promote a junction, if practicable, the committee drew up a "plan of association," which proposed a general division of the literary and theological courses of the two colleges. The plan was submitted to the deputation of the New College council, by the chairman of the committee, and the board of education, the secretary, Dr. Keyworth, and the Rev. A. Mackennal, at a meeting specially convened in London in October. It was left in the hands of the deputation to bring it before the whole council, with all the supplementary information and suggestions which the interview elicited. In November the committee received the answer of the council in a series of resolutions, from which it was apparent that a junction between the colleges was impracticable.

The Rev. Dr. Halley, Mr. Massie, and the Rev. Dr. Deane next read the reports of the examiners upon the work of the past session. They were, on the whole, of a very satisfactory character. The Rev. M. Beeby moved that the reports should be adopted, printed, and circulated. This was seconded by Mr. C. Wallis, and carried. On the motion of Mr. G. Ingall, seconded by Mr. Pidduck (Hanley), a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. F. Keep for his

services as treasurer, to which office he was re-appointed.

Mr. J. A. Cooper announced to the meeting that the Rev. G. B. Johnson felt obliged to resign his office as secretary, and moved the following resolution:

That this meeting desires to express its high estimate of the services rendered to the college by the Rev. G. B. Johnson, who for thirteen years has filled the office of secretary; first, to the Board of Education, and afterwards, for nearly six years, to the committee also. The ability, discretion, courtesy, and unwearied energy with which he has discharged the onerous and difficult duties of his official position, have secured for him the admiration and the gratitude not only of those with whom he has been intimately associated in the conduct of the affairs of the college, but of all its constituents. While deeply regretting the loss the college must sustain by his resignation, this meeting rejoices that his interest in its prosperity is undiminished, and that the institution will continue to receive the invaluable assistance which his intimate knowledge of its affairs and his practical wisdom enable him to render, and begs to assure him not only of the gratitude with which his official services will always be remembered, but of the warm affection and cordial esteem with which he is regarded by all the friends and constituents of the college.

(Loud applause.)

Mr. W. F. Callaway seconded the motion, which was enthusiastically carried. The resolution was ordered to be engrossed and presented to Mr. Johnson. The Rev. G. B. Johnson returned thanks for the compliment, and announced that the Rev. F. Stephens had consented to accept the office of secretary.

On the motion of Mr. G. Marris, seconded by the Rev. E. Simon, of Manchester, a resolution was passed expressing sympathy with Dr. Simon at the temporary failure of his health, and gratefully acknowledging the services rendered by Dr. Halley. Dr. Halley returned thanks, remarking that the time he had spent at the college had passed away very happily, and that his recollections of all connected with it would be of the pleasantest character. A vote of thanks was next passed to Mr. Thomas Avery and Mr. S. Dickinson for the prizes they had given to the college, and to all the subscribers to the bicentenary prize fund. Mr. G. B. Johnson then announced the names of the gentlemen who had been elected as the committee for the ensuing year. After dinner, a vote of thanks was passed to the examiners, and the toasts of "The Trustees," "The Professors," and "The Old Students" were drunk. The business concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. R. W. Dale for presiding.

In the evening service was held in the chapel, and the Rev. Dr. HALLEY delivered his farewell address to the students. He praised them for their assiduity and good behaviour, and said that his intercourse with them, though short, had been very pleasant. He should gladly speak well of them, because he thought they deserved it, and he hoped that God would bless them, and assist them in their present studies, that He would guide them into appropriate situations of usefulness, and make them able, devoted, and successful ministers of the New Testament.

NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, SILCOATES.

On Thursday last the annual meeting of the friends and supporters of this school took place for the last time in the old schoolroom. The boys occupied a platform. Professor Scott, of the Lancashire Congregational College, Manchester (an "old boy"), presided at the distribution of prizes. The lads then gave a number of recitations in excellent style, but the usual "Parliamentary Debate" was dispensed with (in order to allow more time for the business meeting), much to the regret of the visitors, especially of the "old boys," of whom there were a goodly number present.

The prizes were then distributed by the Chairman, who addressed words of congratulation and advice to the recipients. The largest number of prizes (seven elegantly bound books) fell to McDonagh, the son of a medical gentleman in London. The following is a list of the prizes:—

1st conduct, Murray, Peterborough. 1st Greek, McDonagh, London. 1st Latin, McDonagh and North, Stourbridge (equals). 1st French, Clarke, Doncaster, and McDonagh. 1st German, James, Morley. 1st arithmetic, James. 1st Euclid, McDonagh. 1st algebra, Muncaster, Higher Broughton. Natural Philosophy, McDonagh. 1st Chemistry, Muncaster and McDonagh. 1st Reading, McDonagh. 1st recitation, Steer, Sudbury. 1st debate, North. Mechanics, James. 1st history, Steer. 1st geography, Steer. Trigonometry, Steer and James. 1st spelling and dictation, McDonagh and James (equals). 1st Grammar, Muncaster. Extra 2nd Latin, James. 1st writing, Needham, Sutton-in-Ashfield. Extra Latin prize, Clark. Improvement in recitation, Cooke, Painswick. Improvement in writing, Holdsworth, Stockton. 2nd Greek, Steer and Clarke. 2nd Scripture, Miller, Sutton-in-Ashfield. 3rd Latin, Jones, Rochdale. 2nd German, Hirst, Huddersfield. 2nd writing, Jones. 2nd reading, Johnson, Calcutta. 2nd drawing, North (mechanical). 2nd conduct, Johnson. 1st mapping, Johnson. 2nd history, Miller and Blackburn, Brighouse (equals). 2nd grammar, Jones. 2nd chemistry, Miller. 1st drilling, Stubley, Batley. 2nd drilling, Smith, Batley. 2nd spelling and dictation, Sutcliffe, Thirsk. 2nd Euclid, Smoritt, Barnsley. 2nd arithmetic, Stranger, Newnham. Scripture, Greenwood, Ossett. 2nd Latin, Murray. 2nd algebra, Murray. 1st Scripture, Murray. 3rd history, Greenwood, Ossett. 4th Latin, Lewis, Blackburn. 1st drawing, Sutcliffe (landscape).

At the conclusion of the distribution of prizes, Professor Scott, in addressing the scholars, said it had been a great pleasure to him to hear the testimony of the distinguished principal as to the general tone of the house. Whatever efforts were being made as to a new building, they (the boys)

would, he hoped, have a great deal to do with maintaining the high tone of the house. It would tell very much on its future character and success. He hoped those boys who were coming back would do their utmost to maintain the high moral tone of the school.

The meeting was converted into a public meeting for the transaction of the annual and special business. Mr. Joshua Taylor, of Batley, was voted to the chair. After a few words from the chairman, the Rev. Henry Sanders, the honorary secretary, read the report of the committee, which expressed thankfulness for the excellent health which the boys had enjoyed during another year. It stated that after the last annual meeting plans and contracts were obtained for a building which would accommodate 100, and it was expected the premises would be opened in August. The cost of the new schools would be 6,000*l.*, including furnishing, towards which 4,000*l.* had already been subscribed. The committee go on to say—

Owing to the many engagements of the members of the committee, the canvass for subscriptions has not been very extensive as yet, and they hope that the liberality of those who have not yet assisted in this good work will enable them to realise the full amount. The question of education is one of the foremost of those which are publicly discussed and agitated to-day. The adherents of the Church of England were anxious to secure the almost exclusive training of the young. The committee believed that in providing a good middle-class school for the sons of Nonconformists, they are putting no obstacle in the way of any Imperial designs for the better education of the people. It is very improbable that there will be any governmental interference with this kind of educational work, or any satisfactory provision made to meet the wants here supplied. Feeling, therefore, the necessity for such an institution the committee would appeal once more to the supporters and friends of Silcoates to help them by recommending the school to parents, by advocating its claims, and by obtaining subscriptions, that its advantages may be enjoyed by as many as possible of those for whose special benefit it was at first established. No effort will be spared to promote the domestic comfort of the boys, and to secure for them a sound moral and intellectual training.

The report also referred to the satisfactory manner in which the new matron had filled the office since she entered upon the duties, and it likewise made mention of the efforts of the Rev. J. Rae in getting in the annual subscriptions with the aid of the old Silcoates. The report of the examiners were then read. The Rev. Dr. Falding examined the pupils by written questions in Scripture history, geography, algebra, &c. He states that the style of the papers is an improvement on former attempts, the result, probably, of greater practice in written examinations, and has great satisfaction in testifying to the efficiency of the school, as tested by the careful and laborious Christmas examination. Relative to the mathematical examination, Professor Tyte, late of Rotherham College, says that the questions were framed with a view to test not merely the familiarity of the pupils with methods of working examples, but also their knowledge of the principles upon which the working depends, and he congratulated the committee on the efficiency of the school in this important department of its work.

Mr. J. Robinson, Wakefield, proposed the first resolution, adopting the report and expressing satisfaction that the school still maintained its high character as an educational institution, in which intellectual culture is ever accompanied with sound moral and religious training. The speaker remarked that the examiners' reports were gratifying, and as long as Dr. Bewglass was at the head of the school, the latter part of the resolution was sure to be carried out satisfactorily. Many present who had their sons educated in this school were in every way well satisfied with the training their children had received under Dr. Bewglass, whom they were glad to see looking so well. (Cheers.)

Mr. John Shaw, of Barnsley, in seconding the resolution, said he had known several useful ministers who had been connected with the school in their youth. He hoped the change now to be effected in it would be the commencement of a new and prosperous era in its history. (Cheers.) The resolution was carried unanimously. The Rev. C. Illingworth, of York, proposed a resolution of thanks to the treasurer, secretary, and committee, and appointing them for another year. The rev. gentleman expressed his great confidence in the ability and good services of the respected secretary, Mr. Sanders, and spoke particularly of the zeal of Mr. Taylor, Mr. Rae, and Mr. W. H. Lee as committeemen. The Rev. John James, of Morley, seconded the resolution. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the examiners on the motion of the Rev. J. Rae (Batley), seconded by the Rev. J. Browne (Barnsley). The Rev. J. Collier, of Earlsheaton, proposed an expression of appreciation for the very able services rendered the institution by the principal, and in doing so remarked upon the high scholastic attainments, piety, and special qualifications of Dr. Bewglass for the important post he held. (Loud applause.) Mr. C. P. Ford, of Manchester, an old Silcoatian, in a feeling speech, gave utterance to his sense of gratitude and obligation to the headmaster for the interest he took in his education. Mr. O'Hanlon, another "old boy," rendered his tribute of praise for the wise counsels and kindly words he received from the principal, whose largeness of heart and sound learning were the admiration of all the students. (Applause.) Mr. Isaac Briggs, of Wakefield, proposed, and Mr. Burnley, Gomersal, seconded, a vote of thanks to the subscribers, and an earnest appeal for more

funds. Dr. Bewglass introduced a vote of thanks to the chairman and Professor Scott, and gave expression to his appreciation of the kind words that had been spoken of himself and his services. The Rev. H. Sanders seconded the motion.

Professor Scott, in acknowledging the vote, said whilst sectarian and class schools were generally objectionable, there was a necessity for a school for ministers' sons (where the charge could be partly borne by the denomination) until ministers' salaries were so increased that they could take the entire responsibility of their children's education. Mr. John Crossley, of Halifax, the respected treasurer, thought if an effort were made many supporters might be induced to increase their subscriptions. He was agreeably surprised at the appearance of the new building, and thought it should be opened free of debt. ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) It was suggested by Mr. E. Hanson, of Halifax, that ministers, and especially those who had the benefit of the institution, might use their influence in making Silcoates School well known throughout the country.

The company then adjourned to luncheon, prepared in the dining-hall of the new building, after which there was a general dispersion over the grounds, and the weather being fine, the day's outing was much enjoyed. During the afternoon eleven old pupils played at cricket with eleven boys at present in the school, when the former were victorious by thirteen runs. The total score was:—Present boys, 46; old boys, 59.

NONCONFORMISTS AND THE NEW EDUCATION BILL.

At a meeting of the committee of the Manchester Nonconformist Association, June 23rd, the following resolutions were passed:—1. That this committee observe with the utmost dissatisfaction the Government proposals for the Amendment of the Elementary Education Act, and regard them as conceived in the interests of denominationalism, calculated to disappoint the just expectations of Nonconformists, and interposing new difficulties in the establishment of a really national system of education. 2. That, apart from the objections on social and educational grounds to the transfer of the payments of school fees for poor children from school boards to boards of guardians, this committee consider that such a scheme not only reaffirms the principle to which Nonconformists have from the first been opposed—of subsidies to sectarian schools out of the public rates—but extends and strengthens it by making the payment of school fees, hitherto optional with school boards, obligatory on boards of guardians. 3. That, in the refusal to make compulsion universal, and to establish school boards in all districts—accompanied as, with a due regard to equity, such proposals must have been, by a provision for a school board in every district—this committee see only a new concession to denominational interests, and a postponement, in reference to them, of the work of national education. 4. That the power, proposed by Section 13 to be conferred upon school boards to become trustees for moneys or property given as endowments, for any purpose connected with education, introduces a new and most serious element of objection, inasmuch as under it school boards, appointed to regulate, in their respective districts, national and unsectarian education, may become the administrators of funds for the inculcation of religious dogmas, and thus be constituted the legal and responsible promoters of denominational teaching in, possibly, its most obnoxious form. 5. This committee, believing that the support of denominational schools out of public funds virtually involves the creation of a new Church Establishment, are reluctantly led to the conviction that the Government, by thus renewing their sanction of this mischievous system, have forfeited their claims to the confidence of all Nonconformists who believe that the only sound basis of a national system of education is the separation of the secular from the religious element in public elementary schools. 6. That this committee would therefore impress upon their friends in Parliament the necessity of offering a decided opposition to the bill at every stage, and upon Nonconformists in the constituencies that they should without delay put themselves in communication with their representatives, urging them to take the same uncompromising action.

The committee of the Plymouth Nonconformist Association have held a meeting, Mr. T. Nicholson in the chair, to consider the new Education Act, and a series of resolutions were carried, which will be found in our advertising columns.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the Yorkshire District Council of the Liberation Society, held in Bradford, June 30th, 1873, it was unanimously resolved—

That in the opinion of this committee the Elementary Education Amendment Bill, now before Parliament, not only fails to remove the most objectionable features of the Elementary Education Act of 1870, but actually increases and intensifies them.

By the power it proposes to confer upon school boards to become trustees for educational endowments they may come to be richly endowed bodies, and the administrators of funds for the promotion of sectarian teaching; and by giving to boards of guardians the power to pay fees for indigent children attending denominational schools, and by rendering such payments compulsory, the bill reaffirms in a still more objectionable form the vicious principle of the 25th Clause of the said Act, and

will necessarily introduce into the elections of boards of guardians an amount of sectarian bitterness and strife from which they have hitherto been free.

This committee deeply regrets that such proposals should have been made by the present Government, and that by this means they should have still further diminished their claims upon the friends of religious equality throughout the country for confidence and support; also that a petition, embodying the substance of the above resolution, be prepared, signed by the chairman on behalf of the committee, and forwarded to Lord F. Cavendish for presentation to the House of Commons, and that a copy of the resolution be sent to every Liberal representative of a Yorkshire constituency.

At a conference representing the Congregational churches of Glamorgan, Monmouth, Brecknock, and Ruabon, it was resolved:—1. "That we regard the provisions of the Elementary Education Amendment Bill as directly contrary to the principles of religious equality, and worse in every respect than the original Act of 1870; and we pledge ourselves to use every means to prevent it becoming law." 2. "That a petition from this conference, signed by the chairman to that effect, be presented to Parliament."

Apart from the protests of the Nonconformists and the Education League on the well-known grounds, many boards of guardians view Mr. Forster's proposal with serious alarm, and unite in declaring that it will largely increase pauperism, by bringing into contact with the relieving officers an enormous class of poor persons who, at present, avoid becoming paupers, mainly because of the social degradation attached to the name. The guardians of Manchester, Coventry, Wolverhampton, Gloucester, West Bromwich, Burslem, and other districts are taking action to oppose the bill, and their example is likely to be extensively followed.

The Parliamentary Committee of the National Education Union, upon the motion of Mr. F. S. Powell, M.P., seconded by Mr. Cowper-Temple, M.P., have unanimously expressed an opinion that the second reading of the Education Act Amendment Bill ought not to be opposed.

The *John Bull* hears that in all probability Mr. McCullagh Torrens will not persist with his amendment on the Education Act Amendment Bill; and that in any case, though a number of Conservative members who feel very strongly on local taxation might vote against the bill on that ground, there is no intention on the part of the Opposition to fall into the dangerous snare of voting with the Dis-senters to defeat the Government on a bill that, on the whole, will work favourably for the Church.

The National Reform Union has passed a resolution condemning in strong terms the provision of the Education Act Amendment Bill for the transferring the payment of school fees of the children of poor parents from the school board to the board of guardians.

Mr. Forster, in acknowledging the receipt of a petition from three Liberal clubs in Manningham Ward, Bradford, against the Elementary Education Act Amendment Bill, says he regrets the measure should have met with the disapproval of the memorialists, but asks them fully and fairly to consider the arguments which he hopes to adduce in its favour when it comes on for second reading.

Some of the daily papers have published the following correspondence:—

Snow-hill Branch of the United Wolverhampton Nonconformist Association.

Wolverhampton, June 25.

Dear Sir,—We very much regret to find that you are actively supporting, by your voice and influence, a candidate at Bath who is opposed, both on the question of national education and religious equality, to the principles which, in common with the great body of Nonconformists, you profess; and that you are opposing a candidate who, whilst he would support Mr. Gladstone's Government in all Liberal measures, would also give efficient aid to the policy which we deem vital.

Yours very truly,

F. SONLEY JOHNSTONE, Chairman.
HENRY J. MARTEN, Hon. Secretary.

S. Morley, Esq., M.P.

Wood-street, Cheapside, London, June 26.

Mr. S. Morley begs to acknowledge an unsuitable message from the treasurer and secretary of the Snow-hill Branch of the United Wolverhampton Nonconformist Association, and informs them that he utterly repudiates the policy which they advocate, and regards it as foolish and suicidal.

Epitome of News.

The Bishop of Peterborough preached before the Queen, in the private chapel at Windsor Castle, on Sunday.

Saturday being the thirty-sixth anniversary of Her Majesty's coronation, was observed with the customary demonstrations.

The Queen, accompanied by Prince Leopold and Princess Beatrice, is expected, according to present arrangements, to leave Windsor Castle for Osborne on the 9th or 10th inst.

Prince Arthur, it is stated, is shortly to have an establishment of his own, with a new residence in Bagshot Park.

One day last week the Prince and Princess of Wales, with the Cesarewitch and Cesarevna, were present at the Marchioness of Westminster's "small and early" dance at Grosvenor House. The guests began to arrive shortly before eleven, and carriages were setting down till close on one o'clock.

It is stated (the *Morning Post* says) that Her

Majesty's Commissioners for International Exhibitions have appointed Mr. H. Cole, C.B., as acting commissioner, at a salary of 1,000*l.* a year, with a share in the profits of each annual exhibition.

The Garter vacated by the death of the late Earl of Zetland has been conferred upon the Earl of Leicester. Her Majesty has been pleased to knight Dr. Dickson, the Shah's medical attendant and physician of legation at the Court of Persia.

Mr. Hughes, M.P., in presiding at the general meeting of the Crystal Palace Company, has disclosed a peculiar consequence of the late fire at the Alexandra Palace. The insurance companies have now raised their rates to 31*s.* 6*d.* per cent., while some will not accept the risk at all. He proposed that the shareholders should render themselves independent by a system of private underwriting.

Upwards of sixteen tons of strawberries are sent off by rail daily from Saltash to Covent-garden, Manchester, and Birmingham markets.

It has been definitely decided to bring forward Mr. Henry Thomas, miners' agent for the Aberdare district, as candidate for the representation of Merthyr, in opposition to Mr. Halliday, president of the Amalgamated Association of Miners.

The "Keighley Republican Club" have signified their dissent from the popular feeling in a strong resolution condemnatory of the "reception tendered" to the Shah.

Mr. Mechi, writing from Tiptree Hall, expresses his opinion that this will prove a second very unfavourable year for many arable farmers. Stock-breeders (he says) have done well.

At Lymington a fisherman, eighty-three years old, named Payne, who had been somewhat eccentric of late, committed a singular suicide. He rowed out into deep water, tied himself to an anchor, and, flinging himself overboard, sank immediately.

A daring burglary has been perpetrated in King William-street, Strand. The house of Mr. Watkins, a medical practitioner, was forcibly entered and successfully pillaged. Mr. W. was away from town, but his wife and family were at home. Mrs. W. had for greater safety deposited in her bedroom the most costly articles and money, so that the burglars were disappointed in not obtaining the principal part of the booty on which they had calculated. Two of the gang were speedily detected with numerous articles in possession.

The Queen of the Seas, lately detained at Plymouth on suspicion of being bound for Spain with arms for the Carlists has been liberated, having regular papers for Alexandria. She has on board 9,000 muskets and a million and a-half of cartridges. The Deerhound, in the same port, and believed to be destined for a like purpose, has also been released.

On Saturday the colliers employed by Earl Fitzwilliam completed the road the making of which his lordship had set them as a "penance." On the same day a notice was posted up containing the terms on which the men will be allowed to resume work. The men consider that these terms will place them in a worse position than ever. A meeting is to be held to decide if they will accept the offer.

The autumn manoeuvres will take place this year at three places—namely, Dartmoor, Cannock Chase, and the Curragh, at each of which there is to be an assemblage of between ten and twelve thousand troops.

A telegram from the Great Eastern announces that all is going on well with the Atlantic Telegraph expedition, and that the shore-end of the cable was to be laid at Heart's Content yesterday.

On Friday, two young ladies of County Sligo, while bathing in the sea, were carried out of their depth and drowned.

Between Friday night and Saturday morning, some thieves entered the Victoria station, Sheffield, and carried off bodily a safe containing 50*l.* and two watches. A few weeks ago 40*l.* was taken from a drawer at the same station.

It is stated, in connection with the great City forgeries, that the whole proceeds have been recovered with the exception of some 11,000*l.* or 12,000*l.* The four men in custody were further examined on Thursday, and were yesterday committed for trial.

In the coal market on Monday there was a further advance of from 6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* per ton. The merchants' prices, however, were not altered. The best Wallsend are from 38*s.* to 39*s.* per ton.

A procession of Good Templars two miles and a half long promenaded the streets of Bristol on Monday from Queen-square to the Zoological Gardens, Clifton. There were 8,000 Good Templars in the procession, and nearly 20,000 at the gardens. A conference of the Templars is being held at Colston Hall.

The funeral of the late Mr. Thornton Hunt took place on Saturday afternoon in Kensal-green Cemetery. The deceased gentleman was buried by the side of his father, Mr. Leigh Hunt.

The *Carlisle Journal*, an old and one of the most ably conducted of the provincial journals, is announced to appear as a daily paper next week.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The following is a list of the candidates who have passed the recent D.Sc. Examination:—Branch VI.—Electricity: Richard Wormell, M.A., University College and private study. Branch XIV.—Geology: Augustus Constable Maybury, Royal School of Mines and University College.

THE STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENTS OF THE NONCONFORMIST.

The Supplements of the *Nonconformist* containing the statistics of the number of places of worship and their sittings in eighty-four cities and boroughs of England and Wales, with an aggregate population of nearly six millions, are now to be obtained separately. The four groups of towns were dealt with respectively in the Supplements of Oct. 23, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, and Jan. 8; the final number containing a general summary table of the entire results revised to that date, together with a review of the statistics as a whole.

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THE EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, held on Tuesday, July 1st, the following RESOLUTION was adopted:—

That this committee regard the new Elementary Education Bill of the Government as unworthy of the support of educational reformers, or the friends of religious equality,—

1. Because, according to its provisions, the formation of school boards in the several towns and parishes of the country will still be optional—thus, practically, leaving a large portion of the youth of England to be educated in schools which, though erected by national funds, are under private management, and are maintained for sectarian ends; and—

2. Because, by requiring boards of guardians to pay the school fees of the children of the poor—which children may attend denominational schools—the bill will perpetuate in a more objectionable form the religious difficulty which the 25th clause of the Act of 1870 created, and will practically pauperise a considerable portion of the working class.

On these grounds the committee trust that the bill will be resisted by all who wish to see a truly national system of Education established in England.

ALEXANDER HANNAY, Secretary.

THE EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

At a meeting of the Plymouth Nonconformist Committee, held on the 20th of June, the following RESOLUTIONS were adopted:—

I. That the proposal of Government to transfer the payment of fees for indigent children attending denominational schools from school boards to boards of guardians, so far from removing the objections made to such payments, rather increases their force. And this meeting desires to reaffirm the opinion (already expressed in their Resolutions of December last) that such a method of payment must be productive of serious evil, by gratuitously extending the area of pauperism in the country—since parents compelled to seek relief from the guardians for the education of their children will be identified with those who seek relief from the same source for the support of their children. Both payments will be equally regarded (what in fact they are) as "parochial relief," and the stigma of pauperism will be attached to many who have hitherto struggled successfully against it, and whom it is manifestly the duty and the wisdom of the State to encourage in that endeavour.

II. That the proposal of the Government can in no way relieve the conscientious difficulty imposed on Nonconformists by the 25th Clause, and if carried into effect will compel very many hitherto supporters of Mr. Gladstone to withhold their support from all candidates in parliamentary elections, who are not prepared to do their utmost to secure for the country a really national system of education, as distinct from the denominational system which has been so greatly extended and strengthened by the legislation of the last three years.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received two more letters on the subject of "Missionaries in India," which are under consideration. "J. Quail" next week.

Erratum.—In last week's article on "Church Patronage in Scotland," the words "Free Church" occur twice instead of "Established Church" near the top of the second column of page 634, thus confusing the sense of the passage, and creating, as a northern correspondent says, "a Scotch mist."

Mr. ARTHUR MIALl having relinquished the publication of the *Nonconformist*, in consequence of the pressure of other professional engagements, it is requested that for the future all communications relative to the business of the paper may be addressed to Mr. WILLIAM ROBERT WILLCOX, to whom also all Post-office orders and cheques should be made payable.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1873.

SUMMARY.

TO-DAY the Shah of Persia takes leave of the Queen, and on Saturday next he leaves our shores, to begin in France a fresh round of receptions and entertainments, which will be subsequently renewed at Vienna and elsewhere. His Majesty seems to be a sensible and observant man; and, judging from his reply to the Manchester address, he knows what his impoverished country requires to promote her prosperity. The notes he has so profusely taken of our institutions, resources, and habits would no doubt be interesting reading, and would probably show that he has preferred the country life of Trentham to all the state pageants of which he has been the object. His Majesty has been so fully occupied, that little time has been left for interviews with Baron Reuter, who is to be entrusted with the material development of Persia—a country three times as large as Great Britain, or for diplomatic conference with our Foreign Minister—if any is, indeed, required. His visit to England will be a memorial of what can be done in the way of princely hospitality when the country has a mind, and also of the wonderful excitement to which Britons can be roused when imagination holds the rein and fashion prescribes the course.

The House of Lords has sufficiently recovered from the Shah fever to exhibit unwonted energy of action. On Friday that assembly, inspired by Lord Shaftesbury, threw out the resuscitated "Public Worship Facilities Bill" in the teeth of two archbishops and a dozen bishops—clearly a vote of want of confidence in Episcopal administration; and on the same evening their lordships rejected the measure for amalgamating the Parliamentary and municipal electoral register which had passed the Commons. What Lord Shaftesbury did for the one bill, Lord Cairns did for the other. The Registration Bill was good in intention, but its provisions were so confused and complicated that they could not survive the adverse criticism of a keen lawyer.

The Government, which has been lately exhibiting chronic symptoms of timidity—always excepting its pronounced preference for Church interests in education—has suddenly been driven into an act of almost daring vigour. The Judicature Bill retained the House of Lords as a court of appeal for Scotch and Irish cases. Mr. Bouverie has convinced the Government that the northern population do not value the privilege, and on Monday Mr. Gladstone announced that his Cabinet was ready to surrender the appellate jurisdiction of the peers altogether. The Opposition at once joined issue on the point, but were defeated by a majority of 22. This important alteration has yet to be discussed in both Houses. We trust it will not imperil a measure that contains so many valuable features, and which marks a great advance in the path of law reform.

Mr. Forster's bill for amending the Education Act of 1870 does not gain in favour as its provisions are more narrowly examined. Several school boards have condemned it, so also have a number of boards of guardians—these officials not relishing the new duties which the bill would impose upon them; and, as will be seen elsewhere, the protests of the branches of the Education League and Nonconformist committees are many and decisive. It is not surprising that the National Education Union, which represent Church interests in education, should have resolved to support the second reading of the bill; for the suggestion of using the Poor-law machinery to fill the denominational schools came from them. The whole question underwent a discussion of several

hours at a conference of Liberal members and representatives of country organisations held at Westminster yesterday, the result being the adoption of resolutions condemning the Government for disregarding the wishes of "a large class of earnest Liberals," and for subordinating the "national" to the "sectarian" element in education, and calling upon Liberal members to offer a strenuous resistance to the bill. Mr. John Bright was one of the speakers at the conference. While treating the proposed substitute for the 25th clause as an unimportant question, and deprecating a breaking up of the Liberal party, he was ready to allow that the Education Act of 1870 was "the very worst which had been passed by any Government since the Reform Bill of 1832." Yesterday's meeting at Westminster cannot fail to have its weight with the Government. Should the bill be brought on for second reading it will, we daresay, be denuded of the first three clauses.

Another Atlantic cable has been paid out by the Great Eastern from the coast of Ireland to Newfoundland without a hitch, and in the short space of a fortnight. The great telegraph ship has now a more difficult and delicate achievement to accomplish—to pick up from the depths of the Atlantic and to repair the Anglo-American cable of 1865. The progress of this enterprise will be watched with deep interest by ocean telegraphists, for it will help to solve the problem of the durability of these ocean lines of communication. If successful, we shall then have a quadruple means of telegraphic intercourse with the American continent, and—it may be hoped—a cheaper tariff of charges.

Things are out of joint in Prussia. It will not have comforted the Emperor William in his retirement for health's sake to find that his Ministers cannot agree, and that his chief Minister is in a state of general antagonism with those with whom he should work. It seems that the German Parliament is not an obedient instrument, having shown its disgust at a very draconic Press Bill (which had to be withdrawn), and declined to remain in the stifled air of Berlin to pass the Military Bill. The Assembly has been prorogued, but the soreness between Prince Bismarck and Count von Roon remains, and the Emperor, who can hardly preserve coolness, rather sides with the latter. The German Chancellor has almost withdrawn from the Prussian Ministry, and has retired in a highly irritable condition to Varzin, leaving behind him at Berlin a damaged prestige, at which the Ultramontanes are highly pleased.

It has not of late been very certain at any moment whether or not Spain has a definitely constitutional Government. But at length a new list of Ministers, albeit drawn from "the Right," has been accepted by the Cortes, and the Irreconcilables after their manner threaten to descend into the streets, and talk of a Committee of Public Safety. In the Legislature they are certainly a small though noisy minority. The Chamber has, by a very large majority, authorised the Government to suspend the constitutional guarantees, and Senor Margall seems resolute to preserve order if he can, and indifferently crush both Carlists and Red insurgents.

There is now authentic intelligence of the fall of Khiva from General Kaufmann himself, whose several divisions having converged upon that city, the Khan and part of his force fled, and Khiva capitulated without a shot being fired. Neither the capital nor the Khanate itself seems to be worth holding permanently, and it is said that the Czar resolutely adheres to his promise to evacuate, in due time, the conquered territory. To England the matter is really of little political importance. Throughout the whole of Turkestan Russian influence will, no doubt, be paramount; but the annexation of these barbarous regions is so costly an affair that the Government of St. Petersburg may well hesitate to contract new responsibilities, and weaken Russia by too great extension.

There is unlooked-for news of Sir Samuel Baker, whom we recently heard of as virtually a prisoner among hostile tribes. Though his expeditionary force had almost disappeared as it advanced up the Nile, Baker Pasha seems to have been reinforced, and moreover to have completed his mission and returned to Khartoum. With a very small trained force he has routed a native "army," and he has—nominally we suppose—annexed the whole Nile basin as far as the Equator, to the dominions of the Khedive, put down the slavetrader, and opened the way to Zanzibar. He is so satisfied with his work that he has left this far-off region to return to Cairo. It is a remarkable coincidence that the African slave-trade should about the same time have received a deathblow in the dominions of the Khedive and of the Sultan of Zanzibar. If Dr. Livingstone has not

already returned to the coast by the eastern route, the way now seems to be open for his descent into Egypt down the Nile, with the secret of ages probably locked up in his bosom.

EARL RUSSELL ON THE STATE OF IRELAND.

EARL RUSSELL still retains some of those personal and political qualities by which his earlier manhood was distinguished. He has not lost confidence in himself, and, to his honour be it said, he has not lost any of those broader instincts which imparted to his policy, in former times, a general solidity which strongly commended it, on the whole, to the taste of the British public. He sees clearly enough where something is wanting, but not very clearly what that something should be. He is not satisfied with the present state of Ireland—as, indeed, who is? That it is making rapid progress in material prosperity does not content him, nor ought it to content any thoughtful friend of the Sister Isle. It is one thing, however, to see evils which are patent to all the world, and it is another to apply to them fitting remedies. The bill, the second reading of which was moved by Earl Russell in the House of Lords on Monday evening, and which was technically rejected without a division, and without a previous debate, showed that the time has gone by for the noble lord to make any great figure as a constructive legislator. As a critic, his remarks are always interesting, and often instructive; but it strikes us as a happy thing, no less for Great Britain than for Ireland, that the Government of the latter country is not in his hands.

It is incontestible that the political and moral condition of Ireland is far from being what its truest friends would wish it to be. That it is becoming less loyal to the throne of the United Empire is an allegation unsustained, we think, by sufficient evidence. There can be no doubt, however, that in those provinces in which the population is predominantly Roman Catholic, the temper of a large portion of the people is hostile to Imperial rule; and, so far as materials for forming an honest judgment are within reach, and so far as the possibility of exercising that judgment with strict impartiality exists, we are driven to the conclusion that this hostile temper is utterly unreasonable. The clamour for Home Rule is rather an echo of the past than a fair representation of the present. Ireland can as easily govern herself, if she were so minded, under Imperial, as under Home Rule, and much more successfully. No difficulty has been placed in her way of late years, at any rate, by the Government of the United Kingdom, or by the great majority of its representatives. Large measures of concession, partly to Ireland's just claims, and partly to her national sentiment, have been passed by the present Parliament. Her affairs have occupied more time than those of any other part of the empire. Her religious and ecclesiastical sympathies have been far more tenderly treated than have those of English or Scotch Nonconformists. Her system of land tenure has been subjected to a reform such as we look for in vain, for some years to come at least, in this country. Nevertheless, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that her people have not exhibited proofs of increasing conciliation, but rather the reverse. The great ecclesiastical chiefs of the Roman Church are not satisfied with religious equality, but are plainly bent on an ascendancy which would as effectually destroy it on one side, as the Protestant Establishment, now suppressed, destroyed it on the other. Of ordinary crime there is nothing specially to complain of. On the contrary, Ireland is less open to charge on this account than either England or Scotland. Neither is there any serious difficulty in administering justice through the courts of law to those guilty of ordinary offences. But it seems to be all but impracticable to repress altogether agrarian outrages, and, in some places, and at some times, it would appear to be a hopeless effort to quell the ferocious spirit of tumultuous factions. All things taken into account, these features of the present state of Ireland take a good deal off the glitter of its material prosperity and progress.

We know not that we have a good right to be surprised at this result. Taking for granted that the main malady of Ireland has been cured, we have to bear in mind that the means of cure have been but recently applied. Some inconveniences were sure to linger in the frame which had been so shattered by misrule. Ireland requires rest that she may experience the healing efficacy of those changes which have been effected for her. We do not mean to say that all has been done that requires to be done; but we do think that to put her through fresh

courses of political excitement just now would be a grave mistake. Herein we look upon Earl Russell's proposals as singularly mistimed—one of them, indeed, as mistimed, not only so far as the present political temper of the Irish people is concerned, but even in regard to the spirit of the age. Of what use, for instance, would be the incorporation with the statute law of the realm, of a declaration that "neither the Pope of Rome, nor any other foreign potentate, had, or ought to have, any temporal or civil jurisdiction within this realm." Has Earl Russell learnt nothing from the ridiculous failure of his Ecclesiastical Titles Act, recently repealed by the better sense of Parliament? Why fling at people provocations which, while they give no additional security to us, sting them in their most susceptible sympathies? Let the Imperial Government, by means of the machinery already at their command, resolutely maintain public order, and, as far as it is possible to do so, social tranquillity. As material prosperity becomes diffused, it will give birth to, and foster, political contentment. Cease making grand experiments. Hope for nothing from unwise or unworthy concessions. Correct, as opportunity may offer, such anomalies of detail as inflict personal injustice, and wait patiently until Ireland has had time to ascertain the full extent and value of those legislative boons which Parliament has conferred upon her, and which, it is reasonable to believe, will gradually operate upon the mind of the Irish people in bringing it ultimately into hearty union with the rest of the empire.

THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS COMMISSION REPORT.

THE report of the Committee on the Endowed Schools Act will, probably, be one of the most inoperative reports ever presented by any committee to either branch of the Legislature. The manner in which it has been put together divests it of nearly all value and all authority. In no single instance of the least importance does it represent the mind of the whole committee, or even of a very large majority of the whole committee. Its tendency, as a whole, is the reverse of what was anticipated when the committee was nominated. It not only runs contrary to the spirit of modern legislation, but it puts back the hands of the dial.

The committee itself was nominated with great fairness. It consisted of nineteen members, chosen with considerable discrimination, from both sides of the House of Commons, and it was presided over with great ability by Mr. Forster. It sat for seventeen days, and examined eighteen witnesses, including Mr. Roby, Lord Lyttelton, the Bishop of Exeter, Mr. Cumin, Sir Arthur Helps, Mrs. Grey, Prebendary Fagan, Mr. Schnadhorst, and the Rev. Jenkyn Brown, all fairly representative men. Having finished their examination, the committee proceeded to consider their report. Three drafts were submitted, one drawn up by Mr. Forster, another by Mr. Heygate, and a third by Sir Michael Hicks Beach. Mr. Forster's draft was of an exceedingly bald and negative character, and, had it been adopted as it stood, would have made scarcely any difference in the present position beyond extending the power of the commissioners for another three years. Mr. Forster, however, probably saw sufficient in the proceedings of the committee to convince him that any attempt to move further in the direction of reform would be defeated, and therefore he wisely concluded to be satisfied with letting things alone. If this was the judgment which dictated the letter and spirit of his draft report, subsequent proceedings showed that he had exercised an exceedingly wise discretion. We must add that if the report is not one of which we can approve, it is not Mr. Forster's fault. He did his best to make it better, and he often successfully exerted his power to prevent its being worse.

The draft report by Mr. Heygate was briefer than Mr. Forster's, and decidedly reactionary. It commenced by expressing the opinion that "the Endowed Schools Act as administered and interpreted by the commissioners, has, as proved by their own evidence, failed in various particulars to answer the expectations of the country and the intentions of the Legislature"; it defended the appointment of the clergy as *ex-officio* governors, expressly condemned popular elections to the boards, and made no recommendation as to re-appointment of the commission. Sir Michael Beach's draft report was of a more comprehensive character, severely condemnatory of the working of the commission, and leaning to the Church where there could be any leaning. A great deal of the matter of this draft was, after several contests, embodied in Mr. Forster's report, and the

result is the literary mosaic that is now presented to the House and the public.

In this instance, what the Report does not contain is of more importance than what it does contain; but, for convenience' sake, we will take the latter first. It recommends that the commission shall be continued, "with some important modifications"; it expresses the conviction that "the published opinions of some of the commissioners on the subject of endowments have caused alarm, and have, in some cases, seriously impeded the harmonious action which might otherwise have been secured between them and the governing bodies of the charities with which they have had to deal." It condemns the action of the commissioners as precipitate, but at the same time acknowledges that "some sound and good work has been done." It recommends that the process of preparing schemes should be shortened; that the power of the commissioners be extended to smaller schools; that "in dealing with endowments the commissioners should be able to retain an ecclesiastical officer as an *ex-officio* governor, if such an appointment is directed by the original instrument of foundation," and would strengthen the present denominational character of schools, in the following manner:—

Your committee recommend that the following words be added to section 19, as sub-section (3), "any educational endowment originally given to charitable uses since the passing of the Act 1 Will. and Mary, c. 18, commonly called the Toleration Act, if by the express terms of the original instrument of foundation, or of the statutes or regulations made by the founder, or under his authority, in his lifetime, or within fifty years after his death (which terms have been observed down to the commencement of the Act), it is required that the majority of the governing body, or the majority of the persons electing the governing body of such endowment, or that the principal teacher employed in the school, or the scholars educated by the endowment, shall be members of a particular church, sect, or denomination."

The attention of your committee has been drawn to the incidence of section 25 upon cases in which, while the terms of the original foundation fail to bring the endowment within section 19 of the Act recent endowments of at least equal value in the form of buildings or other property have been added, in the belief that the endowment was attached to a particular denomination. In these cases your committee think that the scheme should provide for the continuance of the religious instruction of the scholars belonging to such denomination.

These are the principal recommendations, and, on reading them, it is not surprising to find a Church defence journal saying that they prove that the committee "gave careful consideration to the wrongs of Churchmen," and that "there is much encouragement to Churchmen in the production of this report." If the report were likely to be very operative we should agree in this, but the description drawn of it is natural and indeed inevitable.

Looking at the number of the commissioners, we see how every paragraph was inserted, and how matter that is not in the report came to be rejected. Thus the sentence, condemnatory of the commissioners, was carried by 12 to 6; but only with the aid of three Liberal votes—Mr. Johnston, Dr. Playfair, and Alderman Lawrence—the latter gentleman generally voting with the Conservatives. Mr. Illingworth proposed an amendment to provide for a Nonconformist commissioner as follows:—"They [the committee] are also inclined to believe that public confidence in the commission would be increased if, in future appointments, the commissioners and assistant-commissioners were not all selected from one religious denomination." This was rejected by 11 to 7—Sir Thomas Acland and Mr. Kay Shuttleworth being in the majority; otherwise, we believe, it would have been carried by the casting vote of the chairman. Mr. Illingworth was equally unsuccessful in a proposed amendment to increase the number of commissioners with the view of facilitating the completion of their work. Mr. Leatham moved an amendment on the constitution of the co-optative governors as follows:—

The attention of the committee has been called, through the evidence of several witnesses, to the extensive use which has been made by the commissioners of the co-optative principle in the nomination of members of the governing bodies of schools, under sect. 17, and to the fact that a large majority of these co-optative governors belong to one religious community. While fully recognising the motives of the commissioners in giving this wide development to the co-optative principle, viz., the desire to conciliate opposition on the part of the old trustees, and to preserve some degree of continuity in the management of the schools, we are of opinion that caution should be exercised, lest by an undue recourse to such appointments, the impression be produced that predominance is indirectly sought for any particular church or denomination in the management of such schools.

This amendment was rejected by 10 to 8, the majority being made by Sir Thomas Acland voting against it. Mr. Hardy also carried the clause in favour of clerical *ex-officio* governors by the votes of Sir Thomas

Acland and Mr. Kay Shuttleworth. It will thus be seen how the report was made, what it is, and how it was prevented from being better. It would, however, as we have remarked, have been much worse but for the votes of the chairmen. On thirteen occasions the divisions were equal—9 to 9—and the questions were decided by Mr. Forster's casting vote, which was always used in the right direction. At the same time, it must be acknowledged that when important matter is rejected or inserted by a casting vote the report so dealt with does not carry much authority.

And this, we think, will be the judgment of the House of Commons and the country. We shall be prevented by it from making any further progress in a reforming direction, but we doubt whether, practically, we shall go back. It now remains to be seen how the Government will propose to deal with it, and whether the House of Commons will be as Conservative as its committee.

HOW IT STRIKES A STRANGER.

House of Commons, Tuesday.

The Opposition had a chance of turning into ridicule a supposed over zealous friend of religious freedom on Thursday last, and they were not slow to avail themselves of it. It seems that an inspector of schools refused to allow the children of a school in Wiltshire, which he was inspecting, to sing "God save the Queen," during the ordinary school hours, on the ground that such a performance was contrary to the seventh clause of the Education Act. This clause provides that "the time or times during which any religious observance or instruction in religious subjects is given at any meeting of the school shall be either at the beginning or at the end, or at the beginning and at the end of such meeting, and shall be inserted in a time-table," &c., &c. The fun of the joke was, that anybody could be found who could imagine anything religious in "God save the Queen," and I opine that the inspector was a humorous person. Certainly neither the tune nor the sentiment are now religious in any sense of the word, and for that matter neither one nor the other ever were so, the tune being a very common specimen of the commonest hymn-melody, and the words being unredeemed by one single poetical idea. It was Mr. Ward Hunt who took upon himself to question Mr. Forster about this curious dictum of the inspector, and the interrogation provoked much laughter which was increased when the Vice-President in replying talked about "God save the National Anthem," instead of "God save the Queen." He was good tempered over the affair, and told the House that the inspector had been enlightened a little, and informed that children might express their loyalty in orthodox fashion without waiting till school was over.

After this little scene was at an end, Sir John Pakington asked Mr. Cardwell a question, and the reply, it seems to me, ought to be made the subject of a few more questions. Sir John wanted to know whether the Secretary for War had seen a letter from Colonel Anson in the *Times*, in which it was stated that the War Office had directed commanding officers to enter in certain returns as over the regulation measurement those recruits who had been enlisted under the regulation measurement. Mr. Cardwell replied that the statement was true, and that a grave error had been committed by somebody. Steps would, however, be taken to prevent a repetition of the mistake. Error!—this caused some astonishment in the House. Is it error then for a man coolly to falsify an official document for the accuracy of which he solemnly vouches? This is a most extraordinary euphuism, and we shall presently hear of the error of some needy gentleman who has forged a bill or extracted a five-pound note from his companion's pocket. Mr. Cardwell ought to have been more explicit, and Sir John Pakington would do a public service if he would move for copies of the correspondence showing who was the official in error that so ingeniously attempted to delude the House.

Apparently there was some anxiety about the Zanzibar debate, although it came to nothing, for Mr. Disraeli was particularly desirous to know when it would be brought on. Mr. Gladstone had not arrived, and all that could be got out of Mr. Bruce, who was acting for him, was that it would be brought on "at a reasonable time." This did not satisfy Mr. Bernal Osborne, who instantly assumed his noble Roman character and protested. It is very odd that the joker of the House, our professional punster, should be capable of as much histrionic patriotism as any member in the House.

His indignation when he wants to be indignant is something really terrible to behold. He compresses his lips, shakes his head, and speaks in such proud tones that it is hardly possible for a stranger to look at him without trembling. He bullied poor Mr. Bruce with frightful aspect, and I wonder Mr. Bruce did not fall headlong. He declared that the answer of the Home Secretary was most unsatisfactory, and that if no better were given to the House he would do something dreadful—what, I did not catch. Mr. Bruce, however, knew, as those of us who are acquainted with Mr. Osborne all know, that he is not a real man-eater. His roar is very deep at times, and might alarm an ignorant cow, but the initiated recognise a tone which belongs to another animal of ignobler breed. Mr. Bruce quietly held to what he had before stated, that he could not definitely say when the debate should be resumed, but that it would not be late. The question was then put by the Speaker that the orders of the day after the Rating Bill should be postponed until after the Zanzibar motion. Mr. Osborne cried "No!" lustily in mere defiance, but the Speaker took no heed of him, and declaring that the "Ayes" had it, directed the next business to be taken. This was the Rating Bill, on which ensued, as might be expected, a prolonged and intricate discussion as to the mode in which sporting rights should be rated. The Government proposal was to rate the person who held the rights, but Mr. C. S. Read most conclusively showed that the proper course to take was not to rate the tenant or occupier of the rights but the occupier of the land. Mr. Read is a tenant farmer, and has the good sense to talk generally about nothing which he does not understand. Consequently he is always worth hearing. He knows all about farming and farmers, and is their spokesman. He is never digressive, irrelevant, or superfluous. It is only the ignorant or half-instructed who deluge us with unmeaning platitudes. The thoroughly-instructed man is always simple and direct. In a dozen words of so, spoken with great force, Mr. Read completely settled the question, and all further discussion was futile. Of course, members went on spouting nevertheless. We had what the newspaper reports, charitably suppressing details, call "considerable discussion." Members, however, who indulged in this considerable discussion did not contribute anything more to our enlightenment, and it was half comical in some cases to see the innocent manner in which they beat out again what Mr. Read had given us a few minutes previously. Mr. Stansfeld, to his credit, instantly said that Mr. Read was right, and allowed no false pride to prevent his giving way.

The committee on the Attorney-General's Juries Bill knocked it about a good deal, and at a run all the clauses came to the ground which provide that special jurors shall form a certain fixed proportion of ordinary juries. The attack on these clauses was unanimous, and the whole House seem to unite in mauling them, like a pack of hounds upon a miserable fox. The Attorney-General was solitary, without a single friend, even Sir George Jessel, the Solicitor-General, who sat by his side, not venturing a word on his behalf. He was justly deserted, for it would have been a monstrously foolish trick to insult the common jurymen by an enactment that he should never give an opinion without the assistance of a man who was so much a-year richer. The question of the compulsory unanimity of juries is not yet finally settled, but I confess that there is much to be urged against the alteration of the law as it now stands. What an old lawyer and judge said to me in the lobby seems to have weight—that if the verdict of a majority is all that is necessary, the jurymen will simply, without discussion, put the question of guilt or innocence to the vote in order to get away. A jurymen once told me that on going back to the room he found himself altogether alone in his opinion. He nevertheless knew he was right, and converted by argument the whole of his eleven brother jurymen.

The Shah has just been to the House, to the great disturbance of public business but to the great delight of members, many of whom were as ecstatic as little children might be at the Zoological Gardens. The corridor to the library was duly carpeted with red in honour of His Majesty, as the ordinary carpet is green—the colour of the Prophet, which the Shah will not pollute with his foot. Even the little bit of green on the pavement close to the door was carefully covered over. The Speaker came down to the door to receive him, a most unwonted honour, which I suppose is according to precedent; but it is a precedent which has never been observed within living memory. When he got into the House, the adjournment was actually moved in

order that he might see a division! Surely the height of obsequiousness could no further go, unless the Speaker had advanced with the mace, and, placing his neck under the Shah's boot, had offered him the liberties of the House and the heads of a few of its more prominent members by way of a trophy. After the Shah had seen the division, and had heard the cheering, he retired, escorted by the sergeant-at-arms, taking no notice whatever of the members who lined the corridor in a mob and reverently bowed to him; but inclining his head with much favour to a little knot of members' wives who gracefully curtsied to him, and were immensely pleased at being noticed by such a heap of blazing diamonds. C.

CONFERENCE ON THE EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Yesterday afternoon, an important conference was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, between a number of Liberal M.P.'s and certain representative men from various parts of the country. The meeting was convened by circular, signed by Mr. G. Dixon, M.P., and Mr. H. Richard, M.P., "for the purpose of considering the amendments of the Education Act, and to consult their friends in Parliament on the subject"; but as the proceedings were private, we are not at liberty to furnish a detailed report. Without any breach of confidence, however, it may be stated that the proceedings were most harmonious and important, as expressing a determination not to recede from the position which has been already taken by the leaders of the advanced Liberal party and Nonconformists in the matter of national education. Mr. Dixon occupied the chair, and among the M.P.'s present were the Right Hon. John Bright, Sir C. Dilke, Sir D. Wedderburn, Colonel Stuart, Messrs. E. Miall, H. Richard, G. Hadfield, A. Illingworth, D. M'Laren, C. Gilpin, C. C. Clifford, J. A. Lush, G. H. Whalley, A. J. Mundella, G. Melly, Julian Goldsmid, J. C. Stevenson, E. A. Leatham, R. M. Carter, and others. There were also present the Revs. R. W. Dale, H. M. Crosskey, Jenkyn Brown, A. Hannay, W. Braden, &c.; the Hon. Lyulph Stanley, Messrs. J. Spicer, B. Scott, Carvell Williams, Joseph Chamberlain, J. C. Cox (Belper), H. Lee (Manchester), J. Heywood; together with gentlemen from Bristol, Plymouth, Wolverhampton, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and other places. A free interchange of opinion took place as to the working of the Elementary Education Act in various districts, and as to the opinions entertained respecting the amendments proposed by Mr. Forster's bill. These were felt to be not only inadequate, but opposed to the principle of religious equality, and as impeding a truly national system of education. Various speakers pointed out that the mischief and injustice of the twenty-fifth clause would be perpetuated, and that in addition to this the Amendment Bill was open to special and grave objections, by imposing alien duties upon boards of guardians, who are not elected by popular vote; by introducing an element of sectarian bitterness into the administration of the Poor-law; by rendering it compulsory on guardians to pay fees for denominational teaching; and by virtually stigmatising as paupers those who received such payment. forcible expression was also given to the objections entertained by many Liberals—not by Nonconformists alone—to the devolving of a national work upon private bodies, over whose administration of public funds the taxpayers have no control; and to the power being given to any body of clergy or to any sect to promulgate their distinctive views at the public cost. It was also felt to be a matter for deep regret that a universal compulsory system had not been adopted with school boards for every district. On all these points the testimony was uniform, and hon. members present were left in no doubt as to the opinions and the intentions of the large section of the Liberal party represented at the meeting. Mr. Bright, in an address which was listened to with marked respect, attempted to dissuade from any precipitate action that might break up the present Government and shatter the Liberal party; but Mr. Dale and subsequent speakers pointed out that they were not responsible for the consequences, if a so-called Liberal Government chose to recede from a position which true Liberals held conscientiously, and as a solemn trust. Mr. Bright's line of remark elicited no response, except from one or two hon. members; the great body of the conference, numbering upwards of a hundred leading men, being apparently of one mind that, come what may, Liberals must be true to themselves and to their convictions. Two resolutions were unanimously

passed—one regretting the introduction of the Amendment Bill, as known to be unacceptable to the great majority of earnest Liberals, and as tending to sacrifice national to sectarian education; and a second urging an uncompromising resistance to the measure at every stage.

(From the *Daily News*.)

Mr. Bright (who spoke without rising from his chair) said he was unable to understand the full force of the objections which had been urged against the new bill. He had heard much criticism on it, but no suggestions as to the means by which it was proposed to meet the difficulty. He could not see how compulsion was to be enforced, even if it had been adopted, without some provision for the payment, in some way, of the school fees of children who were forced to school, but whose parents could not pay for them. He was at a loss to understand in what way the proposal to let the guardians pay fees was worse than that at present in the Act. For his part it appeared as though it must work entirely in favour of those who were then objecting to it. The guardians constituted a body less devoted to sectarian influence, more open to the currents of public opinion than the school boards. They were not elected by the miserable sectarian expedient of the cumulative vote. Their object would not be, as had been the case with some school boards, that of supporting certain denominational schools, but of economically administering the rates. He thought, therefore, that, granting these must be paid, the guardians were the best persons, perhaps, to pay them. He wished, too, that the meeting should not be led away by enthusiasm, but should really estimate the difficulties in the way of the Government. He did not in any way support the Act of 1870, which he thought was the very worst Act which had ever been passed by any Liberal Government since the Reform Act of 1832. Still it was now a question of what amendment was practicable, and there was no doubt that it was not possible to pass such a measure as the meeting wanted. He warned them against an impulsive breaking away from the Liberal party. It was easier to smash up than to restore, and they might possibly find, when they had shattered the party, as some of the speakers had threatened to do, they would be in a worse and weaker position than they were before. The working classes viewed these questions in a somewhat different light, and he feared his friends might not merely sever themselves from the Liberal party, but from the great mass of the people. His hope was, that after a while there would be a subsidence of the passions which had been roused by this unfortunate Act, and that the public would gradually see that the sectarian schools were inferior to the board schools, would appreciate the objections urged against denominational education, and would thus transfer their support from the sectarian schools to the national schools.

Mr. R. W. Dale replied to Mr. Bright, maintaining that the real question at issue was that which was being fought out in every country in Europe—the question whether the priesthood should have the elementary education of the young in their hands, or whether it should be under national control. In their appeal from the Liberal leaders, who had given them over to the priesthood, to the great bulk of the Liberal party in the country, he had no doubt of the response.

Imperial Parliament.

PUBLIC WORSHIP FACILITIES BILL.

In the House of Lords on Thursday, the Earl of CARNARVON, in moving the second reading of this bill (which had come from the Commons) briefly explained that its object was to enable the bishop of the diocese to license a building in any parish for the performance of worship according to the rites of the Church of England, either with, or, in certain cases and on certain conditions, without, the assent of the incumbent. If he was conscious that the bill had any party sense or signification, would tell in favour of one religious party in the Church or against the other, he would be no party to it. He believed, however, that it would have very little effect on either party, but he was quite sure that if it had any effect it would have an equal effect on both. On the other hand, it would afford a remedy for a most serious evil. At present, so long as an incumbent kept within the letter of the law no one could interfere with him. In the meantime the parish itself might pine and waste away, the Church might suffer, Dissent might grow, and infidelity might increase. If it were said that the licensing of a place other than the parish church might lead to strife, he had only to say that strife was better than stagnation. It was less dangerous than that the sheep should be left without a shepherd; and although, no doubt, it constituted some invasion of the parochial system, it must be recollected that the system was made for the souls of men, and not the souls of men for the system.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, in moving that the bill should be read a second time that day six months, said that the public were but very imperfectly aware of the magnitude of the questions it involved. In the words of an incumbent who

had written to him on the subject, it was the culminating point of episcopal aggression on the parochial clergy. It was, in his own opinion, vicious in principle and dangerous in practice; it would not only impair the independence of the parochial system, but would bring discredit on the Established Church itself. It was quietly introduced into the House of Commons, and passed through committee in the small hours with one or two amendments, but without a single speech throwing any light on its object and purpose. No public man besides the noble earl had come forward as an advocate of it. The noble earl had spoken of the freedom enjoyed by other bodies. Now, if he became a Unitarian or a Jew, he might have all the liberty he desired, but while a member of the Church of England he must surrender some portion of his liberty in return for the great privileges attached to an Established Church. As to proprietary chapels, they were by no means a parallel case, for the proprietor usually appointed the clergyman, while the incumbent's consent was necessary, whereas the bill empowered the bishop to nominate a clergyman in spite of the incumbent's objection. In his Ecclesiastical Courts Bill he guarded against proceedings being improperly instituted against a clergyman by restricting them to three members of the Church, and by rendering them liable to costs as between attorney and client; but this bill allowed twenty-five parishioners to set the bishop in motion, without requiring them to be members of the Church, rate-payers, males, or even adults. In some parishes there were men whose object was to vex and worry the incumbent, and they would be able to take action under the bill with that motive. As to the power to be conferred on bishops, he wished to say, directly or indirectly, nothing which could be offensive to the Episcopal Bench, but bishops were men of like passions and infirmities with laymen, and however satisfied one might be with the present occupants of the bench, he could not be sure who would come after them. The operation of the bill would resemble a system of terrorism, and many incumbents would never feel safe against being cited by twenty-five parishioners to give an account of their actions. Its operation was limited, indeed, to parishes with not less than 1,000 inhabitants, but the greatest amount of necessity, neglect, and ignorance existed in smaller parishes, and he could see no reason for a restriction which greatly weakened the case in favour of the bill. As to the commission of inquiry which the bishop, at his own option or at the request of the incumbent or ten parishioners, might appoint, three out of its five members would be actually in the nomination of the bishop; and experienced clergymen had told him that such a commission could not be discharged for less than 100*l*. Even if the cost was only 50*l*., it would be a serious matter for incumbents with small incomes. If the majority of the commissioners reported favourably, the bishop might nominate a clergyman without the slightest regard for the feelings of the great bulk of the parishioners. He could conceive nothing more likely to drive people into Dissent. People had taken the parochial system with all its defects as inherited from their forefathers; but if, in addition to having an incumbent put upon them, another man could be put in by twenty-five parishioners, he believed many would declare the Established Church a nuisance, and would prefer other denominations. Then, again, the bill required copies of the notice to be given by the bishop to the incumbent, to be posted in all the Church of England places of worship in the parish, thus making the whole proceeding public. That notice, moreover, was to specify the name and residence of the clergyman whom it was proposed to license, clearly implying that the parishioners were to express their opinion of his doctrine, and whether he was Ritualistic, Neological, or Evangelical. The question would be talked of in the workshops and gin-palaces, and much of the spirit and feeling attending the election of clergymen in certain parishes by popular election would be excited. The man appointed would be shut out from any parochial duties, subject to the revocation of his licence by the bishop in a more summary way than any curate was liable to, and while the bill did not touch the incumbent's endowment and disallowed pew-rents, it made no mention of Easter offerings, free gifts, and collections, all which might be had recourse to, so that if the licensee were planted, as would often be the case, in the richest part of the parish, they would gradually be absorbed, leaving the incumbent to his endowment only. He would pass over the objections to the measure, and would be prepared to give up the patronage, if necessary, if it stood in the way of the spiritual welfare of the people. He would, however, give it up only on the condition that it should not pass from lay into ecclesiastical hands. (Hear, hear.) It was evident, he might add, that under the operation of a bill the incumbent of a parish and the other clergyman who might be appointed would be likely to engage in a most strenuous rivalry. The one would be desirous of keeping his church full, while the other would have the same object in view with regard to his own place of worship; the one would strive to get the offerings, the other to keep them from him. That was a state of things which their lordships could not, he thought, contemplate without regret. He recollected well the energy with which a noble marquis declaimed as to the supposed consequences in that respect of a bill which he had introduced enabling three men in a parish to promote the judge's office; but the results in the present instance had been ten times worse,

because instead of a single movement, there would be one which might be constantly renewed. Sunday after Sunday there would be such scenes as a Ritualistic clergyman and an Evangelical incumbent denouncing one another, and hurling against one another the thunderbolts of theology. There would, in fact, be perpetual disputes and perpetual dismay. What a mockery it was to give such an incumbent an appeal to the archbishop might be seen from the fact that such an appeal had recently cost Archdeacon Denison nearly 600*l*., and would have cost him 800*l*. had he paid all that was demanded of him without legal warrant, including 46*l*. for the archbishop's secretary. Assume, for the sake of argument, that that bill would give the people more places of worship. Would it give them such a minister as they desired? Because, if it did not, the multiplication of places of worship would be of no avail. It was not so much the want of room as want of inclination that kept many away from our churches. They might see, at this moment, in London, churches in the midst of a dense population, not filled to the extent of one-third, because the minister and his services were altogether unattractive to them. Moreover, no sufficient reason had been assigned for the omission of the smaller population in the rural districts—generally the most necessitous, the most ignorant, and the most neglected. The minister oftentimes reigned paramount among them, with no resident country gentlemen, away from public opinion, and not pressed by any of the sense of danger which arose from the presence of large masses. There were greater mischiefs to be apprehended from our rural districts than many people were aware of. It had been said that any one who opposed this bill must be prepared to propose a better. Was the assertion just? Was any one bound to find a substitute for the proposition he rejected? Was it the dictate of common sense or the rule of ordinary life? But, so far as he was concerned, though they were none that he would offer as alternatives, there were some that he would rather accept than that bill—all bad, but each preferable to the measure before them. He would like a bill for a larger extension of district churches; he would even accept one for an increase of proprietary chapels; nor would he resist a bill to restrain the rights of incumbents, and give to any ordained minister of the Church power to obey the call of a majority of dissatisfied parishioners, who, regardless of bishops, rector, and patron, might form a congregation of their own choice—bad enough, he admitted, as approaching to the Congregational system, but yet better than ecclesiastical disorder under the sanction of authority. But the present bill he must unhesitatingly oppose, for, in addition to its other evils, it was, as Mr. Miall said in the *Nonconformist* paper, the first step towards the disestablishment of the Church of England. (Cheers.)

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY said that, believing the measure to be capable of a great deal of amendment, and that much might be said against it, yet he still thought that more might be said in its favour, and he therefore was prepared to give his vote for the second reading, at the same time declaring that neither himself individually nor the bench of bishops collectively desired to be held responsible for the measure. He denied that the measure was an episcopal aggression. Still, a measure might be of such a nature as greatly to increase the power of the bishops, and therefore might be called an episcopal aggression. He was glad if there was such confidence felt in the bishops that lay members of the Church desired—if they did desire—to place so much power in their hands; and he did not believe it would be possible to construct any measure for the improvement of the Church in which members of the episcopal bench could be omitted from consideration, and not allowed that due degree of influence which their very office implied. (Hear, hear.) The noble earl appeared to think the bill gave the bishops the power of nominating clergymen in a parish; but as he read it it gave no such power. The persons who were to nominate the clergymen were the laity of the parish. A certain number of laymen, perhaps too few—though that could be set right in committee—requested that a certain clergyman should be licensed, and the bishop had nothing to do with the matter except either to license or not to license him. He gathered from the noble earl's speech that this was in no way a party question—in the sense of theological party. The noble earl quoted a venerable archdeacon with whom he appeared to be in correspondence—a laugh—and also the authority of Mr. Ryle; so that there seemed really to be a division of opinion on that matter altogether irrespective of party; and he inferred from this that the measure, be it good or bad, was perfectly impartial, offering no more power to one party than to another. It must be recollected that church extension had been mainly promoted by the subdivision of parishes or the erection of proprietary chapels, without the consent, or even in spite of the opposition, of incumbents. Moreover, in the large parishes of London missionary clergy were recognised as the most powerful agents in the evangelisation of the poor. Therefore, this measure was still travelling in the course in which legislation and custom had been travelling of late years, relaxing the parochial system in order to meet the exigencies which arose by an increasing population or by an increased sense of responsibility towards that population. He should be quite ready to agree that the measure should go to a select committee, or that it should be examined in detail in a committee of the whole House and every provision dealt with upon its merits. He was

surprised that the noble earl should be so afraid of the name of the clergyman being submitted to the parishioners. The noble earl seemed to think that nothing but evil could possibly arise from such a system, but, with some little inconsistency, he suggested at the end of his speech that the laity should be the persons to pronounce judgment upon the qualifications of their minister. He saw no objection to the laity having a voice in the appointment of the clergyman, and he could imagine an incumbent who had not done a great deal in past times being stirred to a sense of duty by the knowledge that there was a chance of his parishioners nominating some person whom the bishop would license to perform certain functions which he had failed to perform. The noble earl who moved the rejection of the bill feared that the destruction of the Church would follow because this bill adapted itself to the wants of the times in the manner proposed. His remarks reminded him of a recent discussion in that House, when it appeared that the seceding bodies in Scotland expressed an apprehension that any extension of the Established Church in Scotland would lead to its destruction. He thought that, on the contrary, its extension would strengthen it, and do some damage to those who had suddenly awakened to a sense of its value.

The Bishop of LLANDAFF said that there was no difficulty in getting good congregations in Wales when the Church of England had an opportunity of putting itself before the people. The present jealousy of episcopal power, of archidiaconal influence, and of the clergy generally, was utterly unworthy of many of those who entertained it, and he trusted that their lordships would pass the bill in order that greater facilities of religious worship might be provided for the Church in Wales.

Lord DYNEVOR opposed the bill as being likely to lead to strife and turmoil. It would create a Cave of Adullam in every parish.

Their lordships divided.	The numbers were—
For the second reading	52
Against it	68
Majority	—16

The bill was therefore lost.

THE ELECTORAL REGISTER.

Lord HALIFAX moved the second reading of the Register for Parliamentary and Municipal Electors Bill, the purpose of which, he said, was to provide, in cases where a municipal borough was wholly or partially coincident with a Parliamentary borough, for the formation of a single register for the two classes of electors. The measure also contained other proposals consequent upon this contemplated change in the law, and provisions for the better prevention of frivolous objections. He observed that in the House of Commons no objection had been raised to the principle of the bill. Lord CAIRNS opposed the second reading, for he thought that the measure, under the disguise of being a simple bill, embraced changes of very great gravity and danger. Sarcastically criticising the phraseology of the bill, he declared that the way in which it had been drawn up was positively disgraceful, and that it contained provisions which would entirely overturn the whole system of county registration. He also characterised the bill as a measure to convert frivolous claims into votes, stating that it would enable partisan overseers to fill the lists with improper claimants. After a reply from Lord HALIFAX to the objections urged by Lord Cairns, the House divided, and the bill was rejected by 62 to 26.

THE RATING BILL.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, the consideration of the Rating (Liability and Value) Bill was resumed in committee. On Clause 15, which defines an occupier, Mr. PELL and Mr. READ moved an amendment that the occupier of any land shall be taken to be the person entitled to the right of sporting, though it be severed from the occupation. It was also provided that the gross value of any land shall be the full rent at which it might be reasonably expected to be let, irrespective of any reservation of game and timber, and the tenant is to deduct from his rent any increase of rate he has to pay on account of any assessment of game or timber. Some other clauses were added, on the motion of Mr. STANSFELD, containing provisions with respect to arbitration, the extension of certain parts of the bill to Scotland and Ireland, and the liability of public property. Sir R. BAGGALLAY proposed to exempt hospitals from rating. Mr. GLADSTONE opposed the exemption, and on division the motion was negatived by 70 to 50 votes. The other clauses of the bill were agreed to, and the proceedings in committee terminated.

The House then took the nomination of the Zanzibar Mail Contract Committee. Mr. HUNT moved that the committee consist of seven members, five to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, and two to be added by the House, pointing out that this course was in accordance with the precedent of the Cunard contract. Mr. BOUVIERIE admitted that the matter was of no great abstract importance, except by way of precedent; but his chief ground for declining to accept Mr. Hunt's suggestion was the objection felt by the Committee of Selection to having duties thrown upon it foreign to its original purpose. Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government had no preference for either mode of nominating the committee, and was quite ready to be guided by the opinion of the House. In the absence, however, of any such guidance, he should support Mr. Bouvierie's list. Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE regarded the question as one entirely of procedure, and contended that the tribunal for carrying out such delicate inquiries should be selected by the Committee of

Selection. Mr. MASSEY, on the contrary, thought that in matters affecting the expenditure of public money the House itself ought to nominate the committee, and the intervention of the Committee of Selection should be reserved for cases in which private character was concerned. Mr. SCOURFIELD, as a member of the Committee of Selection, expressed his dislike to the duty sought to be imposed on it; and on a division Mr. Hunt's amendment was rejected by 124 to 85 votes. The committee was then nominated, to consist of Mr. Dodson, Mr. Leatham, Mr. Benyon, Sir R. Blennerhassett, Mr. Waterhouse, Sir E. Colebrooke, Lord Sandon, Mr. Holms, and Mr. Goschen.

THE EDUCATION VOTE.

In Committee of Supply Mr. FORSTER moved the Education Vote, which amounted in round numbers to 1,300,000. There had been a decrease under certain of the heads of expenditure, but he found it necessary to ask almost the same sum as last year, because the Act was now getting into working order, and a large addition was taking place in the number of their schools. From 1862 to 1869 he found that the average number of schools applying for the Government grant and inspection was 492. In 1870 the number was 1,114; in 1871, 1,353; and in 1872, 1,530. There had likewise been a large increase to the average school attendance. He found that in Stockport the average attendance had increased fifteen, and in Bath seventeen, per cent. In Manchester the weekly average attendance had increased thirty-six per cent. in fifteen months, while in London the average increase had been in two years 36,041, and in Hull 3,580 since February, 1872, while in Leeds the average attendance had increased since 1869 to 8,475, or sixty-three per cent. As yet the increase had not told in the returns published in the yearly estimates, but it was an increase which was telling in the inspection which was now going on from month to month. The monthly increase in the actual payments as compared with last year furnished very striking facts as regarded the larger number of schools and the larger average attendance, and he believed he might safely put the average number of attendances this year at 1,557,910. In 1869, the last year previous to the passing of the Act, the number of average attendances was 1,062,999, so that there had since been an increase of 500,000, or fifty per cent. The actual results, he might add, of inspection in England and Wales were as follows:—The day-schools inspected in 1872 were 14,101; the day-scholars present at examination, 1,607,511; the average attendance, 1,336,158. Those scholars were taught by 14,771 certificated teachers, 1,646 assistant teachers, and 21,297 pupil teachers. The population of England and Wales had increased from 1869 to 1872 $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and during the same time the number of day-scholars instructed 23½ per cent.; the scholars present at examination rather less than 21 per cent.; the average attendance rather more than 25 per cent.; the certificated teachers rather more than 25 per cent.; and the pupil teachers more than 70 per cent. That was the increase up to last year, but the present would show a much larger proportionate increase—a very pleasing fact so far as the progress of education was concerned, but one which would necessitate next year probably a much larger bill. He did not wish the committee to suppose that the increase which he had just mentioned did not still leave much to be done. In 1872 the population of England and Wales might be put at about 23,000,000, and, as far as he could estimate, we should aim at an average attendance at the elementary schools of about 3,000,000. Our schools would now hold 2,300,000, which, as the committee would see, would leave a large deficiency in the accommodation, which ought to be considerably in advance of the average attendance. One of the good results which had followed the inquiries instituted under the Act was that, even in cases where the managers had not thought fit to come under Government conditions, they had in several respects improved their schools, and were improving them, so as really to supply education; while also a larger number of those schools were every day coming under the conditions of Government aid. The building grants, when completed, he estimated would give room for 300,000 more children than they had before. That was without touching the large sums being expended by the different school-boards in building schools taking advantage of the means of obtaining money through the Public Works Loan Commissioners. The London School Board was at work now for 100,000 children, a number which the board itself, and the Education Department also, believed was the least they could start for, being considerably under the deficiency given by the actual returns. Besides the case of London, they had already recommended loans from the Public Works Loan Commissioners to afford accommodation for at least 115,000 more children. The committee would, perhaps, expect a few words as to the progress made in getting the Act into operation. Taking the census of 1871 as his basis, the population of England and Wales might, in round numbers, be divided somewhat in this fashion:—In the metropolis and in boroughs, 9,800,000; and in 14,082 civil parishes, 12,900,000. There were school boards in London and in all the larger boroughs—103 in number—for 8,500,000 of the population; and also school boards in 445 civil

parishes, which, though but a small proportion of the whole 14,082, yet comprised a million and a half of people. So that they had school boards for ten millions of the population, leaving 12,700,000 without those boards. There had been an inquiry into the amount of school accommodation in the spring of last year, and the result of that had been that notices were issued to 8,551 districts. In 40 per cent. of these districts the accommodation was found sufficient, but in the remaining 60 per cent. it was to some extent deficient. Although they found 5,000 deficient, he should mislead the committee if he did not state that in many cases the deficiency was very slight and would be easily filled up, while it was impossible to say to what extent it might be filled up even where it was rather large. With regard to the result of examination, the report was not yet issued, but it was impossible to compare it with that of previous years; the new code which had recently come into operation had given a new phase to it. The age at which scholars were considered infants had been changed from six to seven, and the standard at which they were examined was consequently a step higher than it had been. In special subjects satisfactory progress was being made—71,507 scholars having been examined in the three higher standards, of which the majority had passed. The three great problems the board had to solve were—first, to get schools; secondly, to get children to them; and, thirdly, to give the children as much teaching as they could. The first of these problems they were now solving. They would soon have the schools, and the attendance was increasing. The general bad attendance was a great misfortune; but it must be remembered that in this respect they had to contend with the progress and prosperity of the country, because work was competing with them. He thought they were making progress, however, and trusted the House would be willing to take such measures as would ensure the progress being quicker.

Mr. NEWDEGATE inquired whether provision was made for masters who had had charge of schools which were not in receipt of Government assistance being examined, with a view to obtain certificates. Mr. RATHBONE complained of the inadequacy of inspecting power in the town of Liverpool. He would suggest the appointment of supernumerary inspectors. Colonel BARTLEOT believed that if voluntary effort were duly encouraged it would do more than compulsory education. Sir J. LUBBOCK said it was, no doubt, a matter of congratulation that the number of children sent in for examination in the extra subjects was increasing, but it appeared that even now, out of 1,500,000 of children in our schools, only 70,000 were examined in anything more than the mere rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic. He therefore congratulated the right hon. gentleman on the improvements he had sanctioned in the Scotch code, and hoped that similar modifications would be introduced into that for England. Mr. POWELL regretted that the extravagance of some school boards was inflicting unnecessary burdens upon the ratepayers, but he congratulated the committee on the great progress which education was making throughout the country. Mr. READ urged that there should be a greater supply of certificated teachers. Mr. WHITWELL also complained that the supply of certificated teachers was not sufficient, and expressed a hope that the item for normal schools would be increased next year. Mr. DIXON said that the increased attendance at schools in Birmingham during the last twelve months under the board school system was 50 per cent. as against 50 per cent. increased attendance at school throughout the whole country during the last four years. Mr. W. H. SMITH trusted that, however valuable the work done by school boards might be, there was no disposition on the part of those who were interested in education to endeavour to thrust school boards on districts where they were not really required by proved deficiency of the means of education. He was not so sanguine of the results of direct compulsion as he was last year and the year before, and would prefer to see parents encouraged to send their children to school by making a certificate of school attendance a condition of employment.

Mr. W. E. FORSTER said that the discussion had been full of useful hints. It would be the duty of the Government to ascertain that districts continued to be supplied with sufficient school accommodation. The final notices had not yet been issued to any great extent, because it was thought better to finish with the first notices throughout the country, and that would be done by August this year. It had been an object not to proceed by a hard-and-fast line in ascertaining deficiencies, and the inspectors had been instructed to judge of a district by all its circumstances. The code provided means by which the masters of schools not at present in receipt of Government aid could, without coming up to London, be examined and thus secure the Government grant for the schools. With regard to the musical fine, the rule had not been unsuccessful. The code required that singing should be part of the teaching of the elementary schools, and that a shilling should be deducted from the grant for average attendance where singing was not taught. The result was that out of all the schools inspected last year the deductions under the musical fine was only 331. 17s. 7d. (Hear.) He was looking forward to having training halls established in large towns throughout the country, for the purpose of supplying masters at a less cost than could be done by the training colleges. (Hear.) In that way the Government would rather assist in training masters

than train them themselves. The facts which he and the hon. member for Birmingham had brought before the House showed how effectual compulsion had been, and though the hon. member for Westminster was not so sanguine as he had been, his hon. friend must remember that the London School Board had in this respect the most difficult task which any board ever undertook. He hoped his hon. friend, however, would not be discouraged. If it were found that the inspectors were not numerous enough for the work to be done, he would be the first to propose an increase in their numbers.

After some observations from Mr. SCOURFIELD, the vote was agreed to.

A vote of over 283,000*l.* for the Science and Art Department; one of 125,430*l.* for Public Education (Scotland); and one of 4,610*l.* for salaries and expenses of the Board of Education (Scotland), were also agreed to.

AN ORDER OF MERIT.

In the House of Lords on Thursday, Lord STANHOPE moved an address to the Queen praying Her Majesty to take into consideration the institution of an Order of Merit to be bestowed by Her Majesty, as a sign of her royal approbation, upon men who have deserved well of their country in science, literature, and art. Lord GRANVILLE allowed that an Order of Merit might exercise a useful effect, as the Order of the Legion of Honour had done at first in France, but after a time that order became depreciated in consequence of its indiscriminate distribution. In a country having constitutional institutions the selection of persons for the receipt of the order would be an invidious task for the Prime Minister to undertake, and would give rise to complaints on the part of all who conceived themselves unjustly passed over. Lord HOUGHTON supported and Lord HARROWBY and Lord GREY opposed the motion. The motion was then negatived.

THE IRISH EDUCATION VOTE.

In committee of supply on Friday the Marquis of HARTINGTON moved the vote of 542,222*l.* for National Education in Ireland, and the House last year had assented to an increase in the vote, which would amount eventually to 100,000*l.* for increased payments to Irish school teachers, chiefly determined by payments for results. Upon the whole, this increase had given great satisfaction to the teachers. Their position otherwise had also been improved, and they had now greater independence and security of tenure by reason of a form of agreement prescribed by the board, under which a teacher could not be dismissed without three months' notice, or three months' salary, unless for sufficient cause. Having stated that the new arrangements had been in operation for a year, the noble lord added that the schools under the control of the board were 7,060, being an increase of 130 on the number of last year. In spite of adverse influences, however, the decrease in the number of children on the roll was not very serious, amounting only to 11,000 out of 1,010,000, while the average attendance had been reduced by 8,000 out of an average attendance of 335,000.

In answer to Sir C. O'Loughlin, the Marquis of HARTINGTON said that the claims of the schoolmasters for superannuation were under consideration, but the board had not come to any decision. The vote was agreed to, together with a vote of 655*l.* for the office of National Education (Endowed Schools) Ireland.

THE JURIES BILL.

In committee on the Juries Bill the ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed that, following the precedent of the Irish Land Act, the cost of drawing up the jury lists should be paid by the Treasury out of moneys to be voted by Parliament instead of being thrown on the poor-rate. This was accepted, and it was understood that the necessary amendment is to be made in the report. On the clauses relating to the composition of the jury, the verdict, &c., the Attorney-General explained at length the amendments which he wished the committee to make in the existing law. Though he still thought that the number might be safely and advantageously reduced from twelve to seven in civil cases, he gave up this amendment in deference to the almost unanimous opinion against him; but he argued against the necessity of requiring unanimity, and proposed that the verdict of ten out of the twelve jurymen should be taken. Next, he recommended the committee to sanction the "composite jury" in the proportion of four special jurymen to eight common jurymen. That there should be an admixture of all elements in each jury was recommended by the Common Law Procedure Commission and the Judicature Commission, but the system of indiscriminate selection which they contemplated would not work. All the judges, he admitted, were in favour of retaining the number of twelve, there was a majority in favour of unanimity, and on the mixed jury they had not been consulted. Mr. GREGORY was the only member who gave the Attorney-General any support, but, though he was in favour of reducing the number of jurors to seven and taking the verdict of six, he strongly objected to composite juries. Mr. Lopes, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Hardy, Mr. West, Mr. Floyer, and other members spoke against the Attorney-General's proposals. Finally the Attorney-General, admitting that he stood alone, withdrew his amendments; the clauses relating to them were struck out, and the law therefore on these points will remain unaltered. Afterwards progress was made with the bill up to Clause 65.

CHURCH-RATES IN SCOTLAND.

Mr. M'LAREN rose to move that the levying of

local rates and assessments on lands and houses for the erection and repair of churches and manse in Scotland, for the supposed benefit of a minority of the population, is unjust in principle and the cause of great dissatisfaction amongst the people; and, looking to the hopes held out by the Government on the subject, this House is of opinion that a bill should be introduced by the Government, during the present session of Parliament, to remove the existing grievance. He cited the cases of England and Ireland, in which the power of distraining for church-rates had been abolished, and claimed a similar exemption for Scotland. Formerly, he said, these rates being levied only on large proprietors of land and houses, were not felt as being much of a burthen, but some years since a new valuation was made, and the rate was made leviable on the small feu and householders; since then much discontent had prevailed, and the collection of these rates was made an election cry. He believed, further, that it would be a cry at the next general election.

At a quarter past nine an hon. member called attention to the fact that forty members were not present.

Mr. MACFIE pointed to the clock, and said the quarter had not passed; the glass, however, was turned, and the House was counted out.

EARL RUSSELL'S IRISH BILL.

In the Lords on Monday, Earl RUSSELL moved the second reading of his Government of Ireland Bill, and as no noble lord appeared desirous of speaking, the Lord Chancellor, though with obvious hesitation, put the question, and declared that the not contents had it. Nevertheless, Lord Russell proceeded to address the House at great length, repeating, in fact, the substance of the speech which he had made in introducing the measure. At its close Lord KIMBERLEY rose to reply, but the Earl of LONGFORD interposing reminded their lordships that Lord Russell had by the indulgence of the House been enabled to make a very interesting speech. There was no question before them. Earl GRANVILLE said that that was quite true, but still, as Lord Russell had been allowed to speak, it would only be fair to hear Lord Kimberley's reply. The LORD CHANCELLOR said that he had put the question as slowly as it was possible to do. It was, however, decided to allow the debate to proceed, and the Earl of KIMBERLEY replied to Lord Russell in detail. He said that to allow an appeal from the Education Commissioners would seriously impair the efficiency of the Commissioners without enabling the Privy Council efficiently to undertake the responsibility. Earl GREY spoke in glowing terms of the state of Ireland, and suggested that the Heir-Apparent might with great profit be named as permanent Viceroy. Lord O'HAGAN expressed an emphatic opinion that Ireland was growing wealthy, and was growing happy in her wealth. He believed, too, that Irish education was in a most satisfactory and progressive condition; and he fearlessly challenged a comparison of criminal statistics with those of any nation in Europe. The Earl of CARNARVON said that when the noble baron spoke in such glowing terms of the condition of Ireland he had overlooked the stringent repressive laws to which that country was subjected, and the fact both that to be a member of Her Majesty's Government was regarded as an absolute disqualification on the hustings, and that the constituencies showed a most alarming preference for Home Rule, in other words, for Repeal candidates. The bill was then put a second time and again negatived.

RITUALISM IN THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

Lord SANDON gave notice on Monday that on that day week he should ask the First Lord of the Treasury—first, whether his attention had been called to the public admission by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York that there was "a real danger" of "a considerable minority of the clergy and laity of the Church of England desiring to subvert the principles of the Reformation," and to their assertion in the same document that "the very existence of our national institutions for the maintenance of religion is imperilled," and, further, to the fact that 480 clergymen of the Church of England have petitioned Convocation in favour of a revival in the Established Church of sacramental confession, of an order of confessors, and of many other services and ceremonies abolished at the Reformation; second, whether he would be prepared to introduce a bill next session, in accordance with the second report of the Royal Commission on Ritual, passed by a large majority of the commissioners, whereby "a speedy and inexpensive remedy shall be provided for parishioners" against the introduction into their parish churches of certain practices at variance with the usages and principles of the Established Church, and "the bishop shall be bound to inquire" into the formal complaints of the parishioners and enforce summarily the discontinuance of all such illegal practices. (Cheers.)

THE JUDICATURE BILL.

On the motion for going into committee on the Supreme Court of Judicature Bill, Mr. GLADSTONE, forestalling an amendment which stood upon the paper in the name of Mr. Bouverie, announced that the Government were prepared to introduce in the bill clauses providing that the final court of appeal to be constituted for England should also be the final court of appeal for Scotland and Ireland. The right hon. gentleman was not prepared forthwith to state in detail by what means this result was to be obtained; but he urged the House at once to proceed with the bill in committee, upon the under-

standing that the new clauses indicated should be introduced without loss of time. Mr. BOUVIER expressed his satisfaction with this proposal, but Mr. DISRAELI suggested that the debate should be adjourned until the whole scheme and "the matured opinions of the Government" were before the House. Encouraged by the cheers with which this hint was received from the Conservative benches, Mr. WARD HUNT, after some further discussion, embodied it in a formal amendment, upon which the House divided, and the amendment was rejected by 192 votes against 170.

The House then went into committee on Clause 5, which prescribes the constitution of the High Court of Justice; a long discussion occurred on the propriety of increasing the Judicial Staff. Sir R. Bagallay's amendment that the court shall consist of five *ex-officio* judges and eighteen ordinary members was, after a good deal of discussion, negatived. Mr. RAIKES moved to omit the Lord Chancellor from the High Court of Justice, which was eventually agreed to. Mr. HARCOURT moved to omit the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and the Lord Chief Baron, with the object of doing away with the proposed divisions, and making the High Court homogeneous. The discussion of this amendment occupied the remainder of the evening. On the one hand it was supported by Mr. Serjeant SIMON, Mr. H. JAMES, Dr. BALL, and others, who urged that it was necessary to the complete fusion of Law and Equity, and to the economy of judicial power; and in opposition the ATTORNEY-GENERAL and the SOLICITOR-GENERAL argued that it was desirable to retain these great prizes to attract the best men from the Bar to the Bench; that these Divisions had been recommended by the Judicature Commission, and that they were not intended to be permanent, but only to tide over the transition period until all the Judges became conversant with Law and Equity. Ultimately Mr. HARCOURT consented to confine his amendment to the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and the Lord Chief Baron. The further progress of the bill was then adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the Commons on Wednesday Sir D. Wedderburn's bill for the abolition of the Law of Hypothec in Scotland was fully debated, and in the end the second reading was rejected by 147 to 83.

The remainder of Wednesday's sitting was occupied with Mr. Henry's Minors' Protection Bill, for the purpose of protecting young persons from the snares and devices of money-lenders and others. The bill was talked out.

The bill introduced by Mr. Hinde Palmer and Mr. Locke King proposes to disqualify clerks in holy orders while having cure of souls from acting as justices of the peace. The bill also provides that the qualification to act as justices of the peace for counties is to be a clear yearly income of 300*l.* in personal estates within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The joint committee of the Lords and Commons appointed to consider the various railway amalgamation schemes now before Parliament have followed up their rejection of the bill for amalgamating the North-Western and Yorkshire and Lancashire systems by disapproving of the measure promoted by the Midland Company for absorbing the Glasgow and South-Western lines.

Mr. W. E. Forster on Thursday obtained leave to bring in a bill to continue and amend the Endowed Schools Act (1869).

The Canada Loan Guarantee Bill has been read a third time and passed in the House of Commons.

Mr. Bouverie will on Friday next move that that House has heard with regret the removal of Mr. O'Keeffe from the management of the Callan schools, and is of opinion that such removals should not take place under similar circumstances, or without full inquiry as to the expediency of the measure.

On Monday Mr. GLADSTONE stated, in reply to Sir T. Bateson, that an estimate would shortly be submitted to the House for the purchase of plate for the Geneva Arbitrators. In the meantime the plate had been ordered. (A laugh.) Sir T. BATESON said he would take an early opportunity of calling the attention of the House to the act of the Government in expending the public money without having first obtained the consent of the House of Commons. (Oh, oh.)

In answer to Mr. Cadogan, Lord ENFIELD stated that a telegram had just been received from Egypt, dated Sunday, in which Mr. Vivian stated that he had at that moment received a telegram from Sir Samuel Baker at Khartoum, assuring him of Sir Samuel's safety and that of his whole party. All the country, as far as the Equator, had been annexed to the Egyptian dominion. The slave-trade had been abolished, and the traders completely beaten. The road to Zanzibar was open, and Sir Samuel, with 105 men, had achieved a decisive victory over the army of Onoso. (Cheers.)

In reply to Mr. Dixon, Mr. BRUCE stated that the persons who had thrown pepper at, and otherwise ill-treated, Mr. Cox, the Liberal candidate at the late Bath election, had not as yet been identified. It was not intended to offer any Government reward for their apprehension, but the local authorities had taken that step. He could not speak too strongly of the dastardly character of such outrages.

In the division of Friday night the two archbishops and ten bishops voted in favour of the Public Worship Facilities Bill, which was nevertheless rejected by 68 to 52 votes. The majority consisted of lay peers on both sides of the House, the Conservatives preponderating.

THE SHAH IN ENGLAND.

The Shah of Persia has had a busy week, and the papers have published voluminous accounts of his progress. On Wednesday, though unable to pay his promised visit to the Bank of England, he went to the Tower of London, and thence by steamer through the Pool and the West and East India Docks—another steamer taking the Prince and Princess of Wales and a large party—and thence to Greenwich Hospital, where luncheon was served in the Painted Hall. At night there was a State ball at Buckingham Palace in honour of His Majesty. A Scotch reel was danced before him, in which the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Prince Arthur took part, dressed in full Highland costume. On Thursday the Shah went by railway to Liverpool, but the day was unfortunately wet. There was a banquet in St. George's Hall, a procession through the streets, and a cruise down the Mersey. Fatigued, he then went by rail to the Duke of Sutherland's charming country seat at Trentham, where he enjoyed seeing his chamberlains play a game at bowls, and took a share in it. Next day, Friday, the weather being fine, the Shah inspected the great railway works at Crewe, and in the afternoon proceeded to Manchester. At the Town-hall, in reply to an address from the corporation, he expressed the pleasure with which he had come to that great centre of manufacturing activity. He was gratified at what he had seen in this country, and although he could not hope to make Persia so prosperous in a commercial sense, there should be an effort in that direction, not wholly, he trusted, without success. The Shah and his suite were afterwards entertained at luncheon. Messrs. Haworth's cotton factory was afterwards visited, and His Majesty made the following entry in Persian in the visitors' book:—"During my visit to Manchester I have gone through these works with pleasure, and I write my name in this book as a *souvenir* of my visit." His Majesty reached Trentham on his return from Manchester at 6 p.m., having come back specially early in order that there might be some hours of daylight left for the enjoyment of the gardens. His Majesty is reported to have greatly enjoyed his short stay at Trentham. The Persian monarch and suite reached London at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and almost immediately afterwards left for a garden party given in his honour at Chiswick by the Prince of Wales. The Queen was present, together with a vast assemblage of rank and notability. On Sunday His Majesty took a drive to Richmond, but as his intention was not known there were no demonstrations, and as it rained heavily he can scarcely have enjoyed the ride. He looked in for a short time at Richmond Lodge, when Earl Russell and friends received him in his "small house," which the Shah politely said contained "a great man."

On Monday morning the Shah had a novel recreation provided for him by Captain Shaw, of the Fire Brigade, who exhibited in the grounds of the palace ten steam fire-engines, four manual engines, and a number of fire escapes. Their working was observed by His Majesty with great interest. In the evening he paid his promised visit to the Crystal Palace, where more than 30,000 people had assembled to share the splendid entertainment prepared in his honour. After the reception ceremony he and his royal friends, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Czarewitch and the Czarevna, the Prince and Princess Christian, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Duke and Duchess of Teck, and the young Prince Waldemar of Denmark, dined together in a private saloon. The Shah was then conducted over the palace, which he spent a considerable time in inspecting. The fireworks, which should have crowned the fête, were woefully impaired by the unfavourable weather. In spite of this drawback His Majesty stayed till a late hour, and it was nearly midnight when he arrived again in town.

A deputation from the Evangelical Alliance, consisting of the Right Hon. Lord Ebury, president; John Finch, Esq., treasurer; Rev. Donald Fraser, D.D., one of the honorary secretaries; and the Rev. James Davis, secretary, had an audience with His Majesty the Shah at Buckingham Palace on Monday, and presented the following address:—

To His Imperial Majesty the Shah.
May it please your Majesty,—The Council of the British Organisation of the Evangelical Alliance, a society composed of Christians of various denominations in the United Kingdom and in foreign countries, gladly embrace this opportunity to offer to your Imperial Majesty their tribute of unfeigned respect.

In common with all classes of our fellow-subjects, we received with sincere pleasure the intelligence of your Majesty's intended visit to this country, and we offer our thanks to Almighty God for His protection vouchsafed to your Majesty during the long journey which has been so wisely and auspiciously undertaken.

As members of the Church of Christ, we feel ourselves associated in heart with all our fellow-believers, whether in joy or in sorrow, and in whatever country they may by Divine Providence be placed. We therefore remember with feelings of liveliest gratitude your Majesty's kindness a few years since, when we pleaded for the protection of the Nestorian Christians dwelling in a portion of your Majesty's dominions. Your Majesty's gracious reply, accompanied by an act of royal bounty, to aid them to erect for themselves a building in which they might worship God after the manner of their forefathers, afforded us a most gratifying proof of your Majesty's desire to protect all classes of your subjects from oppression and outrage, as well as of your Majesty's respect for conscience and the

liberty of religious worship, and of just toleration throughout your empire.

In respectfully soliciting your Majesty's continued protection of this Christian community, we would lay a humble request before you that the toleration granted by your Imperial favour may distinguish the laws and administration of your Majesty's Government. We do this the more freely and with the greater hope because your Majesty in visiting the Western nations will have perceived, in common with the most enlightened rulers, that religious liberty is not only compatible with civil obedience and sound morality, but that it coexists with the social progress, the most affectionate loyalty, and the highest civilisation of the nations.

We earnestly hope that your Majesty's visit will cement and strengthen those friendly international relations which are among the best omens of enduring peace and of advancing prosperity.

Wishing for your Majesty all personal happiness and the best blessings which our common Father and Saviour can confer on Sovereigns, we beg your Majesty to receive our sincere and Christian salutations.

Signed on behalf of the British Organisation of the Evangelical Alliance.

On the same day also other deputations presented addresses to the Shah. Among the number were the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the Church Missionary Society, and the Mahomedan Indians resident in London.

This day the Shah goes to Windsor to take leave of the Queen, and will embark on Saturday for Paris, Cherbourg being the port of disembarkation. His Majesty will make the passage across the Channel from the English to the French coast in a French steam yacht.

The Shah is expected at Paris on Saturday. He will arrive at the railway station at Passy, where he will be received by Marshal MacMahon, who will conduct him to the Hotel of the Presidency of the Corps Législatif. His Majesty will pass through the Avenue de l'Impératrice and the Arc de Triomphe. A grand fête will be given in his honour on the 6th of July at Versailles. On Tuesday, the 8th, there will be a State performance at the Opera; on the 10th, a review of the troops; on the 13th, a grand fête will be given in Paris, when the city will be brilliantly illuminated, and on the 14th or 15th a grand reception will be held at the Elysée Palace.

It is said that the Shah has intimated to the Conseil Fédéral his intention of visiting Switzerland.

The *British Medical Journal* states that the Shah has expressed a desire to give diplomatic adhesion to the Geneva Convention for neutralising the sick and wounded in war, and the persons and materials provided for their succour.

The *Western Morning News* London correspondent says that when the Shah ate his first meal with the Prince of Wales at Marlborough House, he took a pinch of salt from the cellar, and the prince, seeing what was intended, did likewise, and the other guests adopted the same symbol of hospitality and friendship.

With reference to the rumour that on the occasion of the Shah's visit to Woolwich His Majesty lost some of his diamonds, it is announced that the police have heard nothing of the loss, and the inquiries which have been made prove almost beyond doubt that the story of the lost diamonds is a fabrication.

Struck by the splendour of Stafford House, and by the host of distinguished guests whom the Duke of Sutherland entertained at his ball, the Shah is said to have observed to the Prince of Wales that the Duke of Sutherland was far too powerful a subject, and that the Prince of Wales would one day be obliged to cut off his head. The prince is said to have replied to the suggestion of beheading his favourite duke by saying, "But you see it would be no good, because there are so many others just as powerful."

THE TEMPERANCE PRIZE ESSAY FOR 250 GUINEAS.—EXTENSION OF TIME.—We understand from Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton that the time allowed for writing the above essay is extended from December 15th, 1873, to March 31st, 1874. Competitors will therefore please forward their essays in the manner required by the syllabus, not later than the date above mentioned, viz., March 31st, 1874. This change is made in response to urgent representations, that the period previously allowed was too short to admit of full justice being done to the subject of the essay—unless it were by writers whose time was very much at their own command; and that those who had other unavoidable engagements had not consequently a fair opportunity of competing in the matter.

MR. PLIMSOLL AND THE COMMISSION.—Mr. Plimsoll, M.P., has written a letter in which he says:—

"I see no probability of the commission completing their inquiry under four years. But even if they issue a report next year, that will not prevent hundreds of men now living from dying a violent death, during the coming winter, unless the Government passes a temporary Act, which I have no reason whatever to believe they will do." Speaking at Sheffield on Saturday night, Mr. Plimsoll made a violent attack on Mr. Gladstone for declining to propose legislation to rent unseaworthy ships pending the inquiry by the commission; the hon. member for Derby also suggested that Sheffield should return Mr. Roebuck to Parliament, that he might have the assistance of "one honest man." Both the attack and the suggestion were somewhat resented by the audience.

Literature.

LORD HOUGHTON'S MONOGRAPHS.*

Lord Houghton's intelligence is quite of the type to produce essays, in which reminiscence and anecdote and analysis should be delicately interblended. He has fine insight, real geniality, which yet does not weaken close discrimination of traits, the patience of thorough culture, with little of the cynicism that too often accompanies it in the present day, and is by many held to be its most essential quality. Lord Houghton has a touch of the egotism that usually accompanies simple geniality of disposition, but it is so efficiently relieved by the dominating tone of good society that its result is simply delightful. Perhaps if the sketches in this volume had aimed at greater completeness, they would not have been so successful as they are in this respect. It is the absence of effort, the half-conversational air, the easy, frank, sometimes almost naïve manner in which personal impressions are communicated to us, alongside of reflections which touch the most momentous questions and enterprises of the present day, and the constant revelation of, the tenderest regard for and love of, old world manners, and strange, unaccustomed modes of life and thought, which gives them their peculiar attraction. Lord Houghton has due share of the sympathetic patience of the true diarist, not to say biographer. This, however, should not be confounded with anything like mere sentimental toleration. It derives from discrimination, and leans upon a practical sagacity that is seldom dissociated from good temper, and a never-failing self-control such as is seldom found allied with the sentimental tendency, however slight.

Lord Houghton in this volume deals with very varied characters; but the manner of approach uniformly shows in a high degree the qualities of which we have spoken. Suleiman Pasha, the French soldier become the devout Mussulman, and Heinrich Heine, the scornful sceptic who would give quarter to no religion; Alexander von Humboldt, the grave, severe, philosophical courtier, and Sydney Smith, the clerical humourist; Cardinal Wiseman, the preacher of authority and submission, and Walter Savage Landor, the protestor, the rebel against all social authority, not to speak of ecclesiastical; the Berrys, with their characteristic dilettantism, and Harriet Lady Ashburton, with her supreme good sense—all are treated with the rare tact of true tolerance, and in such a manner as to throw fresh light on subjects that might almost have been regarded as exhausted. In one respect—that of novelty—the first sketch is the most important. Suleiman Pasha was a man whom it is worth while to know about. In the French navy at Trafalgar, he had to flee from that service on account of a duel he fought with a brother officer at Toulon—killing him. He found a place in the "Army of Italy," and afterwards fought in the Russian campaign as aide-de-camp to Marshal Ney. He was at Waterloo on the staff of Grouchy, and, of course, was thereafter naturally enough set aside by the Bourbons. He now began to look for a sphere in some less ordered and civilised community; and this he found in Egypt, under Mehemet Ali. He drilled an army, subdued Arabia, and, on Mehemet Ali picking a quarrel with Turkey, this army now forced itself into Syria, fighting victorious battles at Koniah and Nezib. But, owing to the interposition of a European force, the campaign had to be given up, and Suleiman Pasha had to make a hurried retreat. Baffled in this direction, his busy mind only sought other channels for enterprise. Lord Houghton writes:—

"After a painful retreat through the desert, encumbered with a population of followers, for whose wants Suleiman provided as if he had been commissariat-general, he arrived at Cairo, only to perceive that the edifice of military power which he had raised with such untiring patience and energy had crumbled to pieces, and that he was left with the reflection of what, under happier auspices, it might have been. The versatile mind of the Pasha took refuge in visions of indefinite industrial wealth, which his successors, and especially the present Khedive, have gone far to realise. The carefully-trained cavalry were sent up the country, and used for ordinary agricultural purposes, while the soldiers became labourers of the lowest kind of toil. The wealthy repose enjoyed by Suleiman in his luxurious palace on the banks of the Nile, and the general consideration acquired by his skill, vigour, and beneficence, were a poor compensation to him for a project which would have changed the whole face of the earth, and the destiny of millions of men the foundation of a great Arab empire, which should be within the reach of all European civilisation, and act as mediator between the East and Western world. Having mixed little in politics, even at the time that his arms were deciding their course, he has had still less inclination

* *Monographs, Personal and Social.* By Lord HOUGHTON. With portraits. (John Murray.)

to do so now his especial function has ceased; and by this prudent abstinence he has kept clear of all the intrigue and deception which are inseparable from Eastern state-craft. Contented with a position the right to which none can dispute, he has no enemies, for he has no rivals, and he can afford to succour the weak and protect the oppressed. He has made out of his harem a veritable home, and his wife is an object of unbounded envy to the Egyptian ladies for the respect with which she is habitually treated. She was a Greek of good family, taken prisoner at the siege of Tripolizza. He purchased her from her captor, and found her a willing and useful servant, and she found him so considerate and indulgent a master, that, when the prisoners were liberated after the battle of Navarino, she preferred remaining with Suleiman to returning to her family. He rewarded this choice by making her his wife, and he has never taken advantage of the legal permission to have more than one.

Several other anecdotes, illustrating fine traits in the character of this "adventurer," who protested that he could not tell the advantages he had gained from accepting Mahomedanism, are very well told. This is one:—

"An Austrian officer of the name of Durand, tried to cut off the supplies of food from the large and irregular body of Egyptians, including hundreds of women and children, with whom he was retreating, over the desert in 1840. 'If I had caught him,' said Suleiman, 'I would have hung him before the whole army; as if war was not horrible enough without these infernal resources of diplomacy.'"

There is hardly so much that is new in the sketch of Walter Savage Landor, which seems to have been originally written as a review of Mr. Foster's memoir; but the spirit in which the topic is treated is excellent, and some new anecdotes are supplied from Lord Houghton's association with the poet. What we specially mark in it is the fine appreciation of the better elements in that erratic, ill-compounded, yet truly great nature, together with a real sense of the defects, which enables Lord Houghton to hold the scales evenly when dealing with those whose close association with Landor was so grievously unfortunate. The following paragraph is an instance:—

"It is small reproach to any woman that she did not possess a sufficient union of charm, tact, and intelligence to suit Landor as a wife. He demanded beauty in woman as imperatively as honesty in men, yet was hardly submissive to its influence; just as while he was intolerant to folly, he would have been impatient to any conflicting ability. . . . In the matter of the affections there is less discrepancy between his writings and his life. If a woman could have foreborne and swayed herself according to the vacillations of his temper, his whole character might have been modified, and his happiness saved in his own despite. It was a kind of pride with him that all children loved him. In his demeanour to his own his tenderness was excessive. That his boy of thirteen had not ceased to caress him, is spoken of as a delight he could not forego by sending him to England, even under the care of the scholar he most respected, Dr. Arnold."

The sketch of Cardinal Wiseman shows perhaps more of analytical skill than any of the others, and it gives us very interesting glimpses of Lamennais, Lacordaire, and the remarkable groups that were brought together at Rome by their memorable presence in it. Lord Houghton, with remarkable insight, says with regard to the motives of this singular coterie of reformers:—

"It did not, perhaps, become any non-Catholic to judge the causes of this policy, yet it certainly appeared to the casual observer that the dominant motives of the actors in these scenes were the disinclination to quarrel with the representatives of a successful revolution in France, and an indistinct dread of the large and popular basis on which the Abbé Lamennais was content to rest the authority and destiny of the Catholic Church."

In this sketch of Wiseman, too, there is a revelation, which will perhaps astonish many people, so far as their views of the policy and consistency of a distinguished living statesman are concerned. Cardinal Wiseman, it seems, though he had written record of the transaction, had sufficient reason for not revealing the facts during his lifetime; and we may presume that Lord Houghton has now good ground for publishing the facts, though one of the parties still lives. His lordship thus writes:—

"He (Cardinal Wiseman) had also an interview and conversation with Lord John Russell before he left London for Italy, of which he always spoke as affording a vindication of his future proceedings. Its confidential and private nature, he said, prevented him from appealing to it during his lifetime; but he had a written record of it which must some day be generally known, and would seriously affect the estimate of the imprudence of his conduct. If this is so, it is the more singular that the first overt act declaratory of opinion in high places, and premonitory of public indignation, should have proceeded from Lord John Russell. What was called 'the Durham Letter' was no doubt his personal production, and in no way sanctioned by his Cabinet; but it had all the effect of a political encyclical."

The account of Heine's last days, and his reception of the English lady whom he had known and been fond of when a child, is so very touching, that we wish we had room for extract. But we must forbear, and content ourselves with giving the following from the portrait of Humboldt, which have a special bearing on, and application to, certain present tendencies:—

"The wide gulf which in our country separates the

men of thought from the men of action, is assuredly no small evil. In its effect on the political and social character of the upper ranks it maintains a low standard of mental labour, content with official aptitude, with adroit representation, and with facility of speech, and disparages the exercise of those spontaneous and constructive faculties which should also give a man the command of his fellows in a reflective age; it encourages the consumption of a large portion of life in amusements which become occupations, serious frivolities only differing from vices as barren ground differs from weeds, and really perilous to the moral peace of the community, by contrasting the continuous task of the working thousand with the incessant pleasure of the selected few. On the other hand, the isolation of the literary class has not only deformed some of our highest works of fiction by caricatures of manners and motives with which the writers have not been sufficiently familiar, but has also engendered a sense of injustice which shows itself in wrong susceptibilities, in idle vaunts, in uncharitable interpretations, and in angry irony. These painful feelings may rather increase than diminish with the practical equality that is advancing upon us with such rapid strides (but which the literary class are too often unwilling themselves to concede to others), and the imagined barrier may be all the more formidable when it ceases to rest on the palpable inequalities of fortune and the real dissimilarity of daily existence."

Again:—

"There is something satisfactory in Humboldt's very dissatisfaction, in his criticism of the great, in his consciousness of an incomplete and jarring existence, in his struggle to escape from a conventional world to the confidence of a genial and undoubted friendship. Without these emotions, without this generous discontent, all the learning and all the wit of the companion in letters and mental counsellor of Frederick William, might not have saved him from the servility and its consequences which degraded the incensor of Frederick the Great—"M. de Voltaire, Gentilhomme du Roi"—and from a relation to his accomplished master not without some analogy to that which in ruder time was occupied by the Professor of the Cap and Bells."

Lord Houghton has, in this admirable volume, substantially added to our stock of biographical reminiscence, and we shall look forward with interest to the companion volume which he promises—"Menographs, Political and Literary."

BRIEF NOTICES.

Lockhart's Spanish Ballads, and the Chronicle of the Cid by Southey. (F. Warne and Co.) This is another volume of "The Chandos Classics." They are well printed, and handy for the pocket. Lockhart's "Spanish Ballads" have such a dash of chivalry, a grace of Spanish life and movement, that they are fitted to be yet more popular than they have been, and this is a step in the direction of making them so.

The Three Homes: a Tale for Fathers and Sons. By F. T. L. HOPE. (Cassell.) Despite some diffuseness, this is a well-written story, with a good moral skilfully enforced. Nor is it without some fair character-painting. Sir Henry Allerby, affectionate, sensible, and pious; Earl Donnerill, self-indulgent, vain, and overbearing; and Mr. Douglas, irritable, petulant, pompous, self-willed, and proceeding to high measures with his son without regard to his spirit or to the rights of the case, are powerful contrasts. The boys, too, are of very diverse types, and on the whole are fairly treated. We find weak points here and there, especially in the representation of Lord Glerullin's simplicity in his behaviour towards his valet, Clark, near the end. His lordship was put before us with acuteness and nerve sufficient to put him above that; but a catastrophe was wanted, and it is thus brought about. But, perhaps, boys will not so readily notice such things as adults, and it is meant for a boy's book. As such, we do not doubt it will be read with delight.

Miscellaneous.

LONDON HOSPITAL SUNDAY.—Up to Saturday evening 24,000*l.* was the total amount received by the Lord Mayor on account of the Hospital Sunday Fund. There are still outstanding collections to come in.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.—Notice has been given that, unless the rates due on January 5 are paid on or before the 20th proximo, no person will be placed on the register. The next registration will be the last before the general election.

THE ACTION BY LADY STUDENTS.—The action at the instance of Sophia Jex-Blake and other lady medical students against the Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh, was decided yesterday by the Court of Session in favour of the defendants. The lady students sought to have it declared that they were entitled to attend the professors' classes in the University and to graduate, but the court decided against them by a majority of 7 to 5, holding that by its constitution the University was founded for teaching males exclusively.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—The Bath election took place on Thursday, the candidates being Lord Grey de Wilton, Conservative, and Captain Hayter, Liberal. The former polled 2,194 votes against the latter's 2,143, thus proving victorious by 51 votes. At the recent election, Lord Chelsea's majority was 260. Mr. Cox, the Radical candidate, who retired before the election, had 13 votes recorded for him. In Berwickshire, the polling was carried on quietly on Thursday, and the result was the reverse of what

it was in Bath—the Liberal being returned. Mr. Miller polled 623 votes, and Lord Dunslass, 608, the former being victorious by 15 votes.—It is stated that there will be no opposition to the Hon. W. H. Villiers Stuart's election for Waterford. The nomination is fixed for Thursday.

MILL MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of the executive committee, held on the 27th ult., it was resolved unanimously: "That a bronze statue of Mr. John Stuart Mill be erected in some public situation in the City of Westminster, and that the fund be further devoted to the foundation of scholarships, open to the competition of both sexes, in mental science and political economy, subscribers being at liberty to mention their preferences as to which of these objects their donations shall be applied to." A meeting of the general committee to consider the above resolution will be held to-morrow. It having been stated that great disunion exists on the Mill Memorial Committee, Mr. Bradlaugh says that he will not intrude himself on a committee when nearly half the members object to him.

THE CHANGED HABITS OF COLLIERIES.—Some extraordinary answers on this subject were given at Thursday's sitting of the Parliamentary Committee on Coal by Mr. Normansell, secretary of the South Yorkshire Miners' Association. He said that fifteen years ago it was scarcely possible to find a collier who could write his name, and now every child could read and write. A great number owned their own houses as freeholders, and the system was on the increase. Some of them had pianos and harmoniums, and even perambulators. As to their drinking champagne, he had been told that it was not uncommon for the men to meet together and subscribe for a bottle. Sometimes they travelled in first-class railway-carriages. The colliers do not now work as hard as they formerly did, and there was no doubt that the more a man was educated the less physical labour would be got out of him.

CHEAP MEALS FOR THE PEOPLE.—A movement has been commenced, under the auspices of a large number of ladies and gentlemen, for the purpose of introducing a system of preparing and distributing cheap meals ready for cooking. Among those who have joined the committee are Prince Lucien Bonaparte, the Marquis of Downshire, Sir Henry de Bathe, the Right Hon. W. Cowper-Temple, M.P., Major Du Cane, the Hon. Evelyn Ashley, Sir James Martin, Dr. Erasmus Wilson, Dr. Lankester, Dr. Hardwick, Lady Burrell, and numerous scientific and medical men. There is also a large sprinkling of working-class representatives and delegates from various parts of the metropolis. It is intended that a practical experiment on a large scale shall be made at the International Exhibition on Wednesday, July 2, the result to be reported at a public meeting to be held at the Cannon-street Hotel on the evening of the same day. Mr. Tallerman, the originator of the movement, recently entertained a number of workmen at the Cannon-street Hotel, and, from the favour with which the Australian meat, which formed a portion of the meal, was received, it is expected that the experiment will prove successful.—*Times*.

A CLEVER TRICK has lately been played by one of the London police detectives. It is a frequent practice for the men-servants in large establishments to lay the dinner-table early in the afternoon, and as the windows are usually open at this period of the year, thieves have in several instances effected an entrance thereby and cleared off all the plate. One afternoon a detective called at a house in a fashionable neighbourhood, and on the door being opened, he said he had come to warn the inhabitants that a good many plate robberies had taken place. "All right," said James. "But is it all right?" replied the detective. "Oh, yes; I left the dining-room only a few minutes ago." "Well, there would be no harm in making sure." So rather scornfully James went into the dining-room, and then scorn gave place to dismay. The man of plush was ready to faint, for every spoon and fork had vanished. The detective then quietly opened a carpet bag which he had with him, and revealed to James's gaze the missing articles. The detective had himself got in at the window and swept off all the plate. It was rather a dangerous experiment for him, but a very instructive lesson for James.—*Correspondent of Leeds Mercury*.

SINGULAR MARRIAGE SCENE IN MR. SPURGEON'S TABERNACLE.—A singular scene was presented at Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle on Tuesday morning. Lord Radstock had promised to conduct the marriage of a gentleman named Barnardo, who for several years has been known in London as the founder of homes for poor boys, and a great supporter of ragged-schools in East London. To celebrate the marriage, a large number of poor people from Stepney had been sent by the bridegroom; the ragged-school boys' band posted itself on the steps of the edifice; while a choir of working lads, all gaily decorated with rosettes, took their places inside the chapel, and sang a selection of pieces. By eleven o'clock the large chapel was getting tolerably full of spectators, and meanwhile the bridegroom had arrived. Still the bride came not, though half-past eleven had struck, and a quarter to twelve had been sounded, everybody fearing meanwhile that the delay would render the marriage impossible for that day at least, when the lady appeared, and the registrar with commendable celerity hastened to get through the legal portion of the contract, and to obtain the signatures of the bride and bridegroom, after which Lord Radstock proceeded with the religious portion of the service.

This, in the presence of nearly 3,000 persons, was very impressive, and lasted for nearly an hour. At its close some hundreds of those present adjourned to Clapham Common, where, under a large tent, tea was provided, and another religious service was held.—*Daily Review*.

THE COBDEN CLUB.—Mr. Milner Gibson presided on Saturday at the annual dinner of the Cobden Club at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich. Among the company were Mr. Goschen, Mr. Ayrton, Mr. W. C. Cartwright, Mr. T. B. Potter, Sir C. Dilke, Mr. Rylands, Mr. Mitchell Henry, Mr. Osborne Morgan, Lord Arthur Russell, Mr. Andrew Johnston, M. Emile de Laveleye, Sir L. Malet, Mr. Hugh M'Culloch, Senor Moret y Prendergast, and the Hon. David A. Wells. Mr. Gibson, in proposing the toast of the evening, said that an association to commemorate the name of Mr. Cobden ought to consider itself as a body of trusty sentinels to watch over the great principles that he advanced, and to take care that they did not retrograde. One tendency which he thought required watching was the tendency to encourage the Government to become purchasers of great industries, and to carry them on for the country, on the principle that the country will get better administration in that way than if such industries are left to private companies, and that it is worth while to surrender freedom of action with regard to those particular industries, for the sake of having a central and improved administration in the hands of the Government. Mr. Gibson admitted that he was a delinquent himself in this respect, as he had voted for the purchase of the telegraphs, but he confessed that he had some doubts since whether he was right. "I do not," the right hon. gentleman said, "ask any one to commit himself to any opinion on this question; but, as it is proposed that we shall go on in that direction, and shall purchase railways and all sorts of things, let us consider what we are about—let us take care we don't surrender too much of our freedom of action. What would you say if the Government were to propose to buy the press? I could demonstrate to you that the Government could supply you with newspapers containing all the news of the day, very regularly, and that there would be money saved by having only one newspaper proprietor instead of half-a-dozen. But when once you begin to give a Government a monopoly, and let them work anything, you contravene the principle of free trade, which is competition. Mr. Goschen, in proposing the health of the strangers present at the banquet, referred to Mr. Gibson's remarks about the telegraphs. Mr. Goschen said that the purchase of the telegraphs was an isolated measure; but it was an isolated instance of a policy which was now being continually forced upon public attention and upon public opinion, and he believed there was some danger, unless political economists came to the front, that whenever the necessity arose we might find ourselves drifting into a policy which all political economists must condemn. Among the other speakers were the Hon. David Wells, M. de Laveleye, and Senor de Moret.

Gleanings.

"Oh, ma," said a little girl who had been to the Zoological Gardens, "I've seen the elephant; and he walks backwards, and eats with his tail."

The "original press used by Benjamin Franklin" is said to be in one hundred and seventy-six different American printing-offices.

The Legislature of Nevada, prior to final adjournment recently, passed a resolution thanking the chaplain for the brevity of his prayers.

A negro who had learned to read, wishing to give an idea of it to some of his acquaintances who had never seen a book, said, "Readin' is de power ob hearin' wid de eyes instead ob de ears."

An old lady, with rather confused ideas as to horses and dogs, being asked if her dog was a hunter, said, "it was half hunter and half setter; that he hunted until he found a bone, and then set down to eat it."

An American paper, in noticing a new steamboat, says, "When loaded she will draw less than a foot of water. In case the river becomes perfectly dry, she will run on a heavy dew, or by the aid of a wet sponge secured on her bottom."

A clergyman, who owed his situation to a titled patron rather than to his abilities, in visiting his parishioners for the purpose of catechising them, asked one old stern Presbyterian—"Who made Paul a preacher?" "It wasna the marquis," replied the old man, with a grim smile and shake of the head.

A learned clergyman was accosted in the following manner by an illiterate preacher who despised education:—"Sir, you have been to college, I suppose?" "Yes, sir," was the reply. "I'm thankful," rejoined the former, "that the Lord opened my mouth without any learning." "A similar event," retorted the clergyman, "took place in Balaam's time; but such things are of rare occurrence at the present day."

DEPRIVATION OF SLEEP.—A STUPID BET.—One of the many capital punishments in use under the Chinese Criminal Code is that of deprivation of sleep, which generally proves fatal in about ten days. Five foolish young Belgians lately tried this experiment upon themselves with more or less disagreeable results. They laid a wager that they would remain awake for seven days, on condition that they might use all possible means of keeping off sleep. They arranged the employment of their

time in the following manner. The night was spent in dancing and drinking quantities of coffee; during the day they rode, fenced, or shot at a mark, taking coffee every half-hour. One of these young men won the wager, but lost 25lbs. in weight; two fell asleep after remaining awake 130 hours; one was seized with inflammation of the lungs; the fifth was overcome by slumber while on horseback, fell, and broke his arm, and thus ended this very unnecessary ordeal.—*Echo*.

"AS SOBER AS A JUDGE."—At the summer assize of 1871 at Leeds, a witness of very respectable appearance was under cross-examination upon the old subject of drinking. Being asked whether he had not been drinking on the day in question, he replied he might have been, but he was sober. Then came questions in rapid succession, as to the where and the what, the how and the when; at last it was elicited that the man had drunk five threepennyworths of gin-and-water. "Well," quoth the counsel, "were you not drunk?" "Drunk!" replied the man (the idea of five threepennyworths making a Leeds man drunk! he laughed outright at the notion); "no, I was not drunk; I was as sober as a—I was sober." Mr. Justice Mellor: You were going to say, "As sober as a judge." Witness: Well, my lord, I was, and I beg your pardon; but I stopped myself in time. Mr. Justice Mellor: Oh, I don't mind it a bit—it is rather a compliment; but why the judges should always be selected I do not know; I think it might be varied by favouring us with a bishop now and then.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[A uniform charge of One Shilling (prepaid) is made for announcements under this heading, for which postage-stamps will be received. All such announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

BIRTHS

RICHARDSON.—April 19, at Antananarivo, Madagascar, the wife of the Rev. J. Richardson, of a daughter.

STEVENS.—June 28, at Norway House, Lostwithiel, the wife of the Rev. E. Stevens, Congregational minister, of a son.

WILLCOX.—June 28, at 271, Clapham-road, the wife of Mr. W. R. Willcox, of a son.

MARRIAGES

BLUTH-MUIR.—June 24, at Holloway Congregational Church, by the Rev. Alexander Raligh, D.D., assisted by the Rev. Mark Wilks, Robert Blyth, Glasgow, to Isabella Charlotte, younger daughter of the late Andrew Muir, Esq., Rosebank, Greenock.

WAUGH-ASHFIELD.—June 25, at Horton-lane Chapel, by the Rev. Dr. Campbell and the Rev. Benjn. Waugh, John, second son of James Waugh, of Blackburn, to Lucie, eldest daughter of Thomas Firth Ashfield, Bradford.

HALL-COOK.—June 25, at the Congregational Chapel, Witham, Essex, S. Hall, Esq., of Leigh-road, Highbury, to Jane, daughter of E. Cook, Esq., of Crux, Hatfield Peverel, near Chelmsford.

EMMOTT-HAMMOND.—June 26, at Southwark Congregational Church, New Kent-road, A. J. Emmott, of Bradford, Yorkshire, to Emily, daughter of G. Hammond, of Trinity-square, Southwark.

HAY FEVER.—ANTHOXANTHUM, administered as spray, is the most successful remedy, 2s. 6d. per ounce; free by post, 2s. 9d.; or with glass spray producer, 10s. 6d.; plated ditto, 14s. 6d.; superior vulcanite ditto, with extra supply of anthoxanthum, 25s. and 29s. 6d.; carriage paid.—JAMES EPPS and Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, 170, Piccadilly, and 48, Threadneedle-street.

PREACHERS.—Where large congregations have to be addressed, or the speaker is suffering from dryness of the throat organs, nothing will be found more effectual than Cooper's Effervescent Lozenges, or solid throat quenchers, pronounced by the medical press the best invention extant. Sold in bottles, price 1s. by post 1s. 2d., at 26, Oxford-street, and by all respectable Chemists.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—It has been often and truly asserted that want of forethought ruins thousands and kills hundreds. Surely in the matter of personal suffering remedial means should be always available. Nothing preserves the health so well as an occasional alternative, when the heat is oppressive and the nerves are unstrung. These Pills act admirably on the stomach, liver, and kidneys, and so thoroughly purify the blood that they are most efficient in warding off nausea, fever, diarrhoea, dysentery, and other maladies always rife throughout our summers. All who have the natural and laudable desire of maintaining their own and their families' health cannot do better than trust to Holloway's Pills, which will cool, regulate, and strengthen the system.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, June 25, 1873.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£36,489,760	Government Debt. £11,015,100
		Other Securities .. 3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion 21,489,760
		Silver Bullion
	£36,489,760	£36,489,760

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietor's Capital £14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity) £13,398,924
Reserve 3,206,923	Other Securities .. 21,853,717
Public Deposits .. 12,642,270	Notes 11,210,490
Other Deposits .. 16,487,312	Gold & Silver Coin 780,250
Seven Day and other Bills	353,886
	£47,243,391

June 26, 1873. FRANK MAY, Deputy Chief Cashier.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, June 30.
Of both English and foreign wheat the fresh supplies were moderate for to-day's market. The business doing was restricted, but the trade was steady, and prices of English

wheat remained the same as on Monday last. For foreign wheat we repeat former quotations. Ex steamer occasionally rather less money was taken. Flour was in slow request, at previous prices. Peas, beans, and Indian corn were fully as dear. Barley maintained last week's advanced prices. Arrivals of oats remain moderate, and meet a good demand at fully the prices of this day week. At the ports of call few fresh arrivals have been reported, and the value of cargoes is well supported.

CURRENT PRICES.

Per Qr.		Per Qr.	
s.	d.	s.	d.
WHEAT—			
Essex and Kent, red	59 to 64	PEAS—	
Ditto new	51 56	Grey	34 to 37
White	60 68	Maple	37 42
" new	51 56	White	37 41
Foreign red	57 60	Boilers	37 41
" white	63 64	Foreign	37 40
BARLEY—			
English malting	32 37	RYE—	
Chevalier	42 52	36 38
Distilling	34 40	OATS—	
Foreign	34 36	English feed	23 30
MALT—		" potato	28 35
Pale	66 74	Scotch feed	— —
Chevalier	— —	" potato	— —
Brown	55 60	Irish Black	21 23
BEANS—		" White	20 28
Ticks	33 36	Foreign feed	20 25
Harrow	35 39	FLOUR—	
Small	— —	Town made	47 55
Egyptian	37 39	Best country	— —
		households	43 47
		Norfolk & Suffolk	36 43

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, June 30.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 14,136 head. In the corresponding week in 1872 we received 9,450; in 1871, 13,106; in 1870, 10,208; in 1869, 11,970; and in 1868, 8,419 head. The cattle trade has been depressed in tone to-day. The supplies of stock offering have been larger than on Monday last, and prices in consequence have had a drooping tendency. As regards beasts the receipts from abroad have been liberal. From Spain and Corunna there has been a large supply of animals, some of which have come to hand in excellent condition. There have also been more Danish and Dutch animals on sale. The trade has been quiet, and prices have had a drooping tendency, being about 2d. per 8lbs. lower. From our own grazing districts a moderate supply of beasts has been received. The condition has been rather various, but good breeds have been tolerably plentiful. A difficulty has been experienced in concluding business, and prices mostly rule 2d per 8lbs. lower, the best kinds making 6s. 2d. per 8lbs. to 6s. 4d. per 8lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire we have received about 8000 short-horns, from Norfolk and Suffolk about 700 Scots and crosses, and from other parts of England about 500 various breeds. A fair supply of sheep on sale, including a full average proportion from abroad. For all qualities the market has been dull, at a decline of 2d. per 8lbs. The best Downs and half-breeds sold at 6s. to 6s. 2d. per 8lbs. Lambs have changed hands quietly, at from 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. per 8lbs. Calves have been in slow request, on former terms. Pigs have found buyers on former terms.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, June 30.—Although the supplies of meat were short, they included a comparatively large quantity from the country, and, as the condition was bad and the weather warm, purchases were effected very slowly, and the quotations occasionally receded slightly:—

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.			
s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef ..	3 8 to 4 4	Inferior Mutton ..	4 0 to 5 0
Middling do. ..	4 4 5 0	Middling do. ..	5 0 5 6
Prime large do. ..	5 4 5 10	Prime do. ..	5 8 6 2
Prime small do. ..	5 8 6 0	Large pork ..	4 0 4 4
Veal	5 0 5 8	Small do. ..	5 0 5 4
Lamb, 6s. 8d. to 7s. 4d.			

PROVISIONS, Monday, June 30.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 342 firkins butter, and 3,115 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 32,897 packages butter, and 2189 bales bacon. The supplies of foreign butter are large, and, with the exception of Dutch, which advanced about 6s. per cwt., all other descriptions are lower. In Irish scarcely a transaction passing. A few retail orders for Corks are about the extent of the business doing. Bacon remains without alteration in prices; but the sale is slow for all descriptions, except the very finest Waterford.

HOPS.—BOROUGH, Monday, June 30.—A quieter tone is noticeable in our market, and prices are slightly easier. This morning plantation advices state there is a decided increase of vermin, and that the blue makes little progress. Continental markets are very firm. American letters report a quiet trade. Mid and East Kent, 5l. 5s., 5l. 15s. to 6l. 10s.; Weald of Kent, 5l. 5s., 5l. 10s. to 6l. 0s.; Sussex, 5l. 0s., 5l. 5s., to 5l. 15s.; Farnham and country, 5l. 12s. to 7l.

COVENT GARDEN, Friday, June 27.—Business is steady here just now, and the supply is good. English pines are coming to hand in much larger quantities. Foreign goods are also very largely supplied, especially figs, grapes, peaches, cherries, and apricots.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, June 30.—New potatoes during the greater part of last week were not only very firm, but in active request. To-day, however, the trade is slow, and the quotations generally are lower. Old potatoes are nearly exhausted. New kidneys, 13s. to 15s.; other kinds, 10s. to 12s. 6d. per cwt.

WOOL, Monday, June 30.—The wool market has been without feature. English qualities have been steady in value, with a moderate inquiry. For colonial sorts there has not been much demand, but prices have been firm.

TALLOW, Monday, June 30.—The tallow trade is quiet, and St. Petersburg Y. C. is now quoted at 43s. per cwt. on the spot. Rough, 41s. net cash. Rough fat 2s. per 8lbs.

Advertisements.

COUNTRY GROCERY, IRONMONGERY, and FURNITURE BUSINESS for DISPOSAL, by the Executors of the late Edward L. Dix, of Haverhill, Suffolk. The premises are in the centre of the town, have lately been partly rebuilt, are thoroughly adapted to the requirements of the trade, and in good order. This business offers a good opportunity for two young men, as partners. The present returns, £3,000 per annum, may be greatly increased. Apply to Alfred Wright, 6, Churton-street, Pimlico, S.W.

TO REPORTERS.—Wanted immediately, a VERBATIM REPORTER, good Paragraphist, who can Sub-Edit.—Apply, sending References, stating Terms, Age, &c., to "M. M." Post Office, 270, High-street, Chatham.

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EVIDENTIAL DISCOURSES AT ST. GEORGE'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE.

On MONDAY EVENING next, July 7th, the CONCLUDING ADDRESS of the series will be given by the Lord Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol. Subject: "The Present Aspect of Christian Evidences." The chair will be taken at Eight o'clock by LORD LYTTLTON. Admission free.

P. BARKER, M.A., Secretary.

2, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C., July, 1873.

THE BRITISH and FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

THE SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in EXETER HALL at Half-past Six o'clock, TUESDAY EVENING, July 8th, 1873.

Lord CAMPBELL and STRATHEDEN in the Chair.

Sir Bartle Frere, G.C.S.I., K.C.B., just returned from Zanzibar; Sir C. Wingfield, M.P.; Wm. M'Arthur, Esq., M.P.; and other gentlemen, are expected to address the meeting.

The Slave Trade still exists in vast dimensions. Besides its devastations in Eastern Africa, it is carried on in various parts of that continent, also in Persia, &c., &c. Kidnapping prevails in Polynesia, and the China Coolie slave trade to Peru and Cuba; whilst slavery continues in Mohammedan countries, in Cuba, Brazil, Madagascar, &c., &c.

Tickets of admission can be had at the office of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, 27, New Broad-street; Mr. Elliott Stock, bookseller, 62, Paternoster-row; the Church Mission House, Salisbury-square; the London Mission House, Blomfield-street; the Office of the Evangelical Society, 7, Adam-street, Strand; the Baptist Mission House, Castle-street, Holborn; Mr. E. Marsh, the Friends' Institute, 12, Bishopsgate-street Without; Mr. Gladding, bookseller, 76, Whitechapel-road; and Mr. Kirkham, Midmay Conference Hall.

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM. for the EDUCATION of the SONS of MINISTERS. The ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION of PRIZES, RECITATIONS, &c., will take place at LEWISHAM, on THURSDAY, 10th July, Rev. THOS. AVELING to preside. Tea and coffee at Five p.m. Meeting at Six.

JOSIAH VINEY, Hon. Sec.

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The Committee of the above School have pleasure in announcing that a new building has just been erected capable of accommodating one hundred Pupils, and specially adapted to secure their domestic comfort.

The course of instruction includes all branches of a sound Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education, so as to fit the Pupils for any department of business, or for entrance at the Universities.

The SCHOOL will REOPEN, after the Midsummer vacation, on FRIDAY, the 1st of August, 1873.

Applications for admission to be sent to the Principal. For Prospectuses, Terms, and further information, apply to the Principal or Secretary.

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Principal—Rev. W. H. GRIFFITH, M.A.
Secretary—Mr. EDWARD BAYLY.

Pupils are prepared for Matriculation at the Universities or for Commercial pursuits.

Terms, 28, 30, and 36 guineas per annum, according to age.

The COLLEGE REOPENS on FRIDAY, August 1st.

Prospectuses on application.

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This Establishment, conducted by Rev. WALTER GILL, aided by competent Masters, will REOPEN (D.V.) on THURSDAY, July 31.

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No.	Amt. Ann. Prem.	17th year.
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Premiums received	96,451	£4,917
Claims and Bonuses paid, 193 for	31,407	764
Laid b. in Year	41,043	4,736

Accumulated Fund ... 314,116
In Force, 18,084 Policies, for ... 3,109,215
Annual Premium Income ... 97,402

Average Reversionary Bonus, 18 years, £11 per cent. per ann.
The Report was adopted. Messrs. G. T. Dale and Henry Olney re-elected Directors, and Mr. Charles Brown and Mr. James Clarke, of the "Christian World," Auditors.

May, 1873.

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